



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

*Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915,
and Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.*

REPORT

UPON

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

For the Year 1925.

D. ROCYN JONES,

June 10th, 1926.

County Medical Officer.


71696





CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED ...	3
B. WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS ...	4
C. VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925 ...	9
D. DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS ...	11
E. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES ...	12
F. DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES ...	14
G. DETAILS OF MOTHERS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT CENTRES ...	15
H. DETAILS OF INFANTS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT CENTRES ...	15
I. REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF CENTRES ...	17
J. SALE OF FOODSTUFFS AT THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES ...	43
K. INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES ...	44
L. PROVISION OF MIDWIVES FOR THE COUNTY ...	46
M. COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE ...	47
N. TRAINING OF THE ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ...	47
O. PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AT HOSPITALS, ETC. ...	48
P. CONCLUSIONS ...	50



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28861255>

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT,

10th June, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.*

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Eleventh Annual Report upon the work done in connection with the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

A.—SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED.

During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1925, there were notified to this Department 8,335 births, as follows:—

	Living.	Stillbirths.	Total.
No. officially notified by persons in attendance	7,868	333	*8,201
No. not directly notified to the County Medical Officer, but information received from other sources, viz.:—			
District Registrars 	113	—	113
Health Visitors 	21	—	21
Total 	8,002	333	8,335

* Of these 8,201 notifications, midwives were responsible for 8,139, registered medical practitioners for 51, and parents for 11 notifications respectively.

The number of registered births during the year was 8,100, of which 97 per cent. were notified in compliance with the Notification of Births Acts. Of the remainder, 134 births were subsequently discovered, 113 through the District Registrars and 21 through the Health Visitors, leaving only 1 per cent. of the registered births unaccounted for.

B.—WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

The co-ordination of the School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare work of the Health Visitors, which took place in January, 1920, continues to work satisfactorily.

There are 30 Health Visitors upon the staff. Twenty-six of them undertake the joint work, while the two Health Visitors at Abertillery and the two at Ebbw Vale are fully employed upon Maternity and Child Welfare work only. In addition, the Mental Deficiency Inquiry Officer and the Lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee devote a part of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

All infants are visited soon after the tenth day and during the first year of life at intervals of three months excepting those who at the first visit are found to be in homes where they are well cared for. In cases where there is reason to believe home conditions are not entirely satisfactory, or when the child has some defect, visits are paid more frequently.

After the first year, visits are paid twice yearly in the majority of cases until the child attains the age of five, unless special conditions call for more frequent visiting.

The number of visits paid by Health Visitors to the homes shows a decrease as compared with the previous year, due to the increased attention which had to be given to other sections of their work, principally School Medical inspection and attendance at Tuberculosis Visiting Stations.

Too much value must not be placed upon the *number* of visits paid by the Health Visitors, as it must follow that the more thorough the work the fewer will be their daily visits.

Home visitation is necessarily the chief method of inspection of mothers, for only a small proportion attend the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

As 7,872 new babies were visited out of 8,002 births notified, which include all classes, it will be seen that the proportion of working class homes visited must be practically 100 per cent.

It is pleasing to record that the prejudice against the invasion of the home by "strangers" is now a negligible factor, and a bond of sympathy and confidence has been established between the mother and the Health Visitor, which has yielded, and will continue to yield, a powerful influence in the welfare of the mother and the child.

I. VISITS PAID.—During the year 61,644 visits were paid to the homes as follows:—

New cases.		Re-visits under 1 year of age.	Re-visits 1 to 5 years.	Total Visits.
Babies seen.	Fruitless visits.			
7,872	590	22,541	30,641	61,644

The figures for the previous years are given for the purpose of comparison :—

1924—	First visits, 8,577; re-visits under 1 year, 24,319;				
	Re-visits, 1 to 5 years, 31,261.	Total, 64,157.			
1923—	First visits, 9,896; re-visits under 1 year, 24,529;				
	Re-visits, 1 to 5 years, 33,038.	Total, 67,463.			
1922—	First visits, 9,100; re-visits under 1 year, 25,350;				
	Re-visits, 1 to 5 years, 25,804.	Total, 60,254.			
1921—	First visits, 10,591; re-visits under 1 year, 33,024;				
	Re-visits, 1 to 5 years, 21,843.	Total, 65,458.			
1920—	First visits, 11,255; re-visits, 45,478.	Total, 56,733.			
1919—	do. 9,735; do. 39,055.	do. 48,790.			
1918—	do. 8,106; do. 29,537.	do. 37,643.			
1917—	do. 8,322; do. 29,109.	do. 37,431.			

II. METHODS OF FEEDING.—Of the new cases visited, it was found that 6,788 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (86·2 per cent.), whilst 760 were being bottle-fed (9·6 per cent.), and 246 were both breast and bottle-fed (3·1 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 809 instances (10·2 per cent.) children breast-fed had been put on the bottle after the first visit of the Health Visitor and before the usual time of weaning. The above percentages are of the total new cases visited. In 78 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours.

The figures for previous years in respect of all cases visited are :—

			1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
			per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Breast-fed	...	...	82·3	81·8	79·6	78·7	79·3	78·6
Bottle-fed	...	...	10·1	10·0	11·5	11·8	11·4	11·7
Both breast and bottle-fed	...	...	2·5	2·6	3·25	3·7	4·2	3·9
Changed from breast to bottle-feeding within first nine months	...	...	9·1	7·6	12·0	13·0	15·8	12·4

It will be noted that the percentage of breast-fed infants has been steadily rising, and that there is an appreciable advance in this year's figure.

One of the principal functions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is the encouragement of breast feeding.

There is no substitution for mother's milk or her care. Natural feeding has many advantages. The mother's milk is the ideal food for the infant, containing all that is necessary for its health and upbringing. If it is not sufficient, a consultation with a medical practitioner will generally result in the fault being discovered and remedied.

Children fed on the mother's milk are less likely to suffer from digestive upsets.

When it is finally found impossible for the mother to breast feed her child, it is important to ascertain the most suitable substitute. Infant feeding has been removed from the region of the mysterious and has been brought to a science which can be controlled and applied.

The advice of a medical practitioner is essential, for if the infant period is neglected a healthy adulthood can hardly be expected.

III. INTERVIEWS WITH DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.—In accordance with the arrangements made at the initiation of the scheme, visits were paid by the Nurses to the Local Medical Officers for consultation purposes, and also reports made to District Medical Officers of Health upon sanitary defects at the home.

With the prevailing economic conditions of the County, it does not appear to be of much use commenting further upon the grave housing conditions which are general throughout the County.

Overcrowding is still rife, and the supply of new houses is not sufficient to meet the demands. Houses which have been condemned as unfit for habitation have to remain in occupation for want of alternative accommodation.

IV. ANTE-NATAL WORK.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 1,020, an increase of 84 upon last year's figure.

V. PUERPERAL FEVER.—During the year 1925, notifications were received from the District Medical Officers of 22 cases, whilst in the return of deaths furnished by the Registrar-General the number due to puerperal sepsis was 8. The attack rate per 1,000 births in 1925 was 2·7. The attack rate per 1,000 of the population equalled ·05, and the death rate per 1,000 of the population ·05. The death rate per 1,000 births was 10·9.

Notifications were received from the following districts:—Abercarn 2, Abertillery 3, Bedwellty 1, Ebbw Vale 8, Mynyddislwyn 2, Risca 3, Tredegar 3.

The following comparative table is submitted:—

Year.	No. of Notifications to Local M.O.H.	No. of Notifications received at Central Office.	No. of Deaths registered.	Death rate per 1,000 of population for County.
1925	22	22	8	.021
1924	15	15	10	·027
1923	19	21	9	·02
1922	11	11	14	.03
1921	17	18	13	.03
1920	24	30	20	.05
1919	19	13	11	.029
1918	6	6	3	.009
1917	4	4	0	Nil.
1916	13	14	8	.025
1915	22	22	6	.018
1914	26	15	12	.035
1913	13	14	6	.018
1912	26	23	4	.012
1911	19	16	13	.028
1910	26	16	13	.043

The 22 cases of Puerperal Fever were investigated by the County Midwives' Inspectress, who found that all the cases were attended by registered midwives.

Details of the cases are as follows:—Number of women attended at confinement by midwife alone, 13; by medical practitioner and midwife, 9. In 8 of the cases attended by the midwife, the medical attendant was called in on the day of delivery, whilst in 2 cases a doctor was called in on the second, in one on the third, in one on the fifth, and in one on the eighth day. One patient was removed to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, for attention.

Everything possible is being done to prevent the spread of infection. A visit of the Midwives' Inspector is paid immediately upon receipt of the notification, and the midwife is prohibited from attending other cases until she has left the infected case and has allowed 24 hours to elapse for thorough disinfection of herself, her instruments and clothing.

VI. MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of deaths during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 26—8 from puerperal fever and 18 from other causes associated with child-birth. This is equal to a rate of 3·2 per 1,000 registered births, and is lower than last year's rate of 3·9. It will probably also prove to be lower than the rate for England and Wales, which was 3·9 in 1924.

VII. INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—48 cases of this disease were discovered during the investigations, and 127 re-visits paid, as against 56, and 79 re-visits for the year 1924.

Fifty-five deaths were registered from this disease in children under two years of age, giving a death rate per 1,000 births of 6·79, as compared with 5·74 for the year 1924.

The summer was warmer than the immediately preceding summers.

During the years preceding the introduction of the County Maternity and Child Welfare scheme, the death rate averaged 11 per 1,000 births. It would therefore appear that the lessons taught by the scheme and the general improvement of sanitation have borne good fruit in this particular class of infant mortality, for the average rate for the past ten years, which included one very hot summer, when the rate was 17·2, has been just over 7 per 1,000 births.

Printed instructions to mothers in regard to this disease are distributed by the Health Visitors when cases come to their notice. As the disease is not notifiable, it is obvious that only a small proportion of the cases are discovered by the Health Visitors.

VIII. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Twenty-six cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1914, as compared with 40 cases for the previous year. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the midwives, making a total of 117 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 345 visits to them. The number of cases in which there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the midwife was four, and in each case a warning letter was sent by the County Medical Officer.

The Health Visitors have reported upon 89 of the cases as follows :—

No. of Cases Visited.				Acute.	Slight.	Total.
Brought forward from last year ...				4	4	8
New Cases	{	Both eyes ...	...	10	46	56
		One eye only ...	...	5	20	25
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				19	70	89
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
No. of cases removed to hospital ...				1	—	1
No. of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife ...				—	4	4
RESULTS.						
Completely cured ...				14	64	78
Blindness ...				—	—	—
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year ...				5	4	9
Died from other causes ...				—	2	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				19	70	89
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Since the beginning of January, 1921, the midwives practising within the Administrative County have been supplied with bottles of Collosol Argentum, with which they are instructed to treat the eyes of all children at birth. The supply is renewed upon application at the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Investigations by Health Visitors in this County have not ascertained a case of blindness in infants for the past few years, and in the country generally it is known that there has been a great reduction in the incidence of blindness due to ophthalmia neonatorum, probably following the compulsory notification of ophthalmia neonatorum and the use of preventive drops for the eyes of newly-born children.

At the first test of the vision of school children in Monmouthshire, it is found that 10.0 per cent. have defective sight, which in most cases has to be remedied by means of spectacles. The time to begin to preserve sight is at birth.

The object of the treatment of the eyes of new-born babies with drugs is to guard against infection. There would be fewer children commencing life handicapped by poor vision if proper attention were paid to the following rules :—

“Baby should sleep in a dark room for the first few weeks of life.”

“Baby’s eyes should never be exposed to the direct rays of the sun.”

“Do not hang a rattle from the top of the perambulator. This is a frequent cause of eye strain.”

“The print in picture books given to infants should be large and clear.”

“Rooms in which children play or read, should be adequately lighted. A glaring light, unshaded, is just as bad as insufficient light.”

C.--VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

DISTRICT.	ESTIMATED POPULATION.	BIRTHS.								DEATHS.				INFANTILE MORTALITY.													
		LEGITIMATE.		ILLEGITIMATE.		TOTAL.		GRAND TOTAL.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	TOTAL DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.				AGES AT DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.									
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male	Female.							Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 births.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total under 1 year.
URBAN—																											
ABERCARN ...	21,260	262	260	6	7	268	267	535	25·1	120	108	228	10·7	44	2	46	85·9	10	2	1	1	14	7	8	9	9	47
ABERGAVENNY ...	9,133	83	78	6	2	89	80	169	17·4	78	58	136	14·8	11	1	12	71·0	4	1	—	—	5	1	2	4	—	12
ABERSYCHAN...	29,100	303	278	8	12	311	290	601	20·6	153	134	287	9·8	57	7	64	10·6	27	3	3	2	35	9	7	8	5	64
ABERTILLERY ...	39,260	392	352	14	10	406	362	768	19·5	196	142	338	8·6	61	1	62	80·7	13	7	4	2	26	9	14	9	4	62
BEDWAS & MACHEN ...	9,372	107	116	5	4	112	120	232	24·7	56	40	96	10·2	19	1	20	86·2	9	—	3	—	12	3	2	—	2	19
BEDWELLTY ...	33,900	448	418	19	11	467	429	896	26·1	199	149	348	10·2	80	2	82	91·5	21	11	1	2	35	4	11	17	15	82
BLAENAVON ...	13,080	132	135	3	—	135	135	270	20·6	85	76	161	12·3	25	2	27	100·0	4	6	2	2	14	6	4	3	—	27
CAERLEON ...	2,273	16	6	1	1	17	7	24	10·5	7	10	17	7·4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CHEPSTOW ...	5,146	41	53	2	2	43	55	98	19·0	40	36	76	14·7	9	—	9	91·8	5	1	1	—	7	2	1	2	—	12
EBBW VALE ...	37,290	418	406	10	12	428	418	846	22·6	234	157	391	10·4	68	3	71	83·9	15	3	2	6	26	11	11	13	8	69
LLANFRECHFA UPPER...	4,913	50	47	1	—	51	47	98	19·9	33	29	62	12·0	15	—	15	153·0	2	1	—	2	5	—	2	2	2	11
LLANTARNAM ...	7,955	81	74	1	2	82	76	158	19·7	38	38	76	9·5	9	1	10	63·2	3	—	—	1	4	—	—	3	1	8
MONMOUTH ...	5,050	51	39	2	3	53	42	95	18·8	44	46	90	17·8	8	1	9	94·7	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	2	9
MYNYDDISLWYN ...	16,010	182	205	4	6	186	211	397	24·7	81	78	159	9·9	42	3	45	113·3	10	2	1	—	15	7	4	10	8	44
NANTYGLO & BLAINA...	16,920	171	157	8	4	179	161	340	26·0	92	98	190	11·1	31	1	32	94·1	7	6	1	2	16	2	4	4	7	33
PANTEG ...	11,670	123	105	—	3	123	108	231	19·0	65	57	122	10·4	13	—	13	56·2	6	—	1	2	7	3	—	1	2	13
PONTYPOOL ...	7,516	79	80	3	1	82	81	163	21·0	42	39	81	10·7	13	—	13	79·7	6	1	—	—	7	2	2	1	1	13
RHYMNEY ...	12,340	161	149	5	7	166	156	322	26·0	89	63	152	12·3	27	1	28	86·9	16	2	—	1	19	1	4	2	2	28
RISCA ...	17,760	161	169	7	6	168	175	343	19·3	91	80	171	9·6	22	1	23	67·0	7	—	—	—	7	6	3	2	3	21
TREDEGAR ...	26,380	318	292	10	5	328	297	625	23·6	162	129	291	11·0	48	1	49	78·4	9	4	4	—	17	7	7	8	11	50
USK ...	1,412	3	12	1	—	4	12	16	11·2	4	8	12	8·5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RURAL—																											
ABERGAVENNY ...	9,354	76	68	1	3	77	71	148	15·8	57	33	90	9·6	8	1	9	60·8	3	—	—	—	3	1	3	—	—	7
CHEPSTOW ...	9,001	68	89	3	5	71	94	165	18·3	53	37	90	9·9	4	1	5	30·3	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	4
MAGOR ...	5,777	56	48	—	—	56	48	104	17·9	37	19	56	9·7	6	—	6	57·6	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	6
MONMOUTH ...	6,598	66	60	2	4	68	64	132	20·0	42	34	76	11·5	3	—	3	22·7	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
PONTYPOOL ...	5,430	53	55	1	1	54	56	110	20·2	37	24	61	11·2	7	—	7	63·6	2	1	—	—	3	3	1	1	2	10
ST. MELLONS ...	11,440	99	113	1	1	100	114	214	18·6	54	69	123	10·7	19	—	19	88·7	3	2	—	1	6	4	3	1	1	15
Grand Totals, 1925	375,400	4,000	3,864	124	112	4,124	3,976	8,100	21·5	2,189	1,791	3,980	10·0	649	30	679	83·8	184	56	24	24	288	93	99	102	87	669
Totals for year 1924	374,340	4,208	3,916	121	123	4,329	4,039	8,368	22·3	2,169	1,793	3,962	10·6	606	27	633	75·6	185	70	31	10	296	111	80	71	69	627

N.B.—The figures in the columns marked with an asterisk were supplied by the Registrar-General, and the remainder by the District Medical Officers.

IX. STILL-BIRTHS.—333 cases were notified to your Medical Officer, and this number, in addition to the 78 infants who were found by the Health Visitors to have survived birth by a few hours, makes a total of 411 young lives lost.

The still-births work out at 4·2 per 100 live births, which is a slightly lower figure than that of last year.

X. UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—The number of confinements attended by unregistered women without a doctor was 14, as compared with 5 in 1924 and 39 in 1922.

Five of these cases were attended by a midwife in Abersychan who had been struck off the Roll. This practice has now been stopped. The remainder were in rural areas where at times it is difficult to obtain a certified midwife.

C.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Administrative County in acres is 345,048. Other statistics are given in the accompanying table.

The District Medical Officers' figures of the ages at death of children under one year of age, show that during the year 184 infants died within one week of birth, and 288 died within the first month of birth, whilst 669 died within the first 12 months, which, together with the figure of 333 still-births, make a total of 1,002 lives lost to the community.

The Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births is 83·8. Last year it was 75·6; in 1923, 73; in 1922, 83·4; in 1921, 91·5, and in 1920, 87·9.

There were 369 births less for the period under review when compared with the number for 1924, and the birth rate is 21·5 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 23·5 in 1923. In the year 1922 it was 23·8; in 1921, 28·3; in 1920, 29·2, and in 1919, 22·9.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 236, which gives a ratio to that of legitimate births as 30·0 to 970·0 per 1,000 births. Last year the number was 244, equal to 29·2 per 1,000 legitimate births, and for the year 1923 the figures were 274, or 31·4 per 1,000 births.

The total number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year was 30, or 3·7 per 1,000 of all births, and 127 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 27, or 3·2 per 1,000 of all births and 110 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

The rate is higher than that of last year, but fairly satisfactory when compared with previous years.

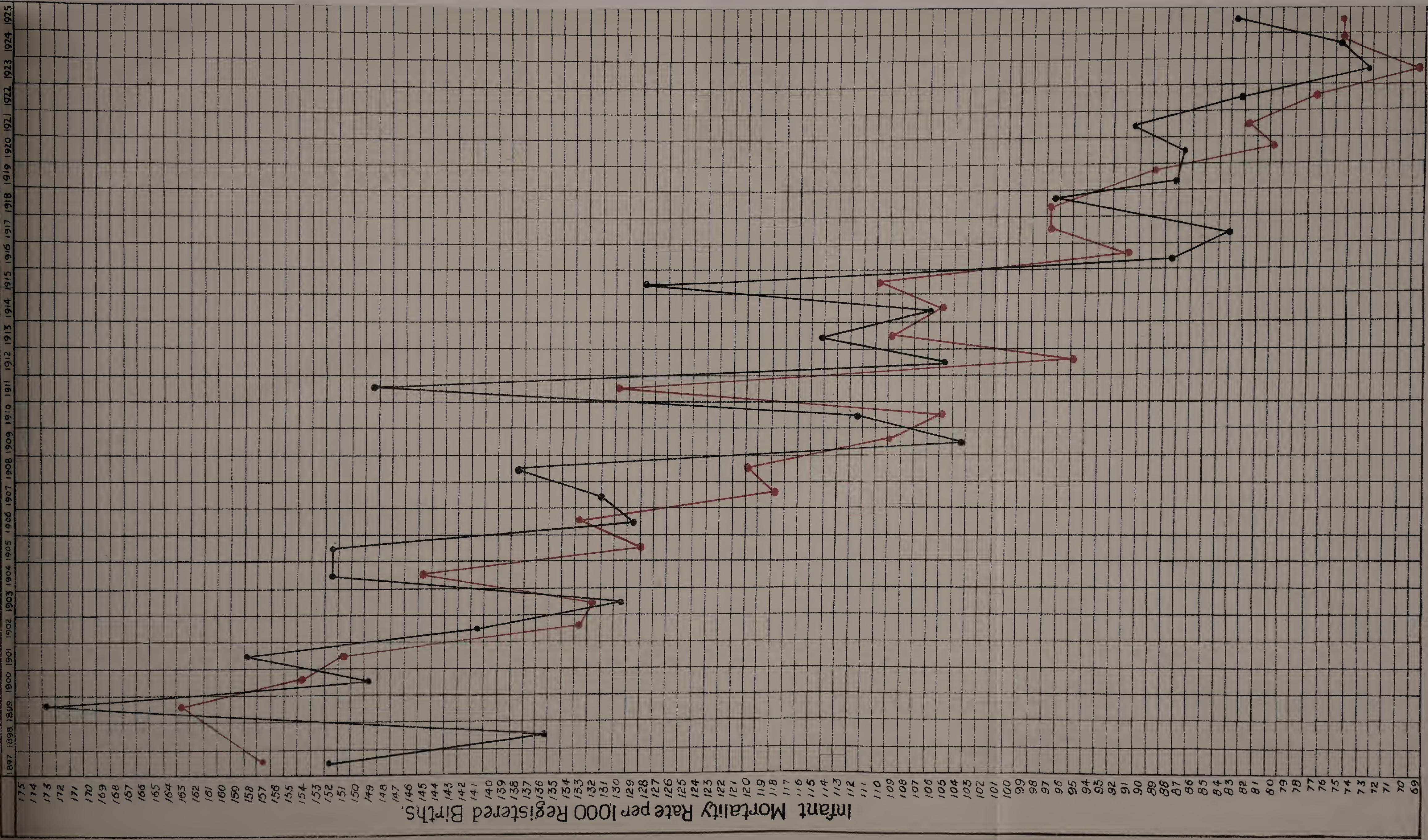
The District Infant Mortality Rates, arranged in order of highest rate, are as follows:—

	Present Year.	1924.		Present Year.	1924.
URBAN—			URBAN—		
Llanfrechfa Upper	153.0	(56.8)	Risca	67.0	(67.1)
Mynyddislwyn ...	113.3	(65.8)	Llantarnam	63.2	(51.8)
Blaenavon ...	100.0	(127.2)	Panteg	56.2	(58.8)
Monmouth ...	94.7	(56.2)	Abersychan	10.6	(70.1)
Nantyglo & Blaina	94.1	(68.6)	Caerleon	Nil.	(43.5)
Chepstow ...	91.8	(90.9)	Usk	Nil.	(66.6)
Bedwellty ...	91.5	(83.9)			
Rhymney ...	86.9	(95.7)	RURAL—		
Bedwas & Machen	86.2	(113.2)	St. Mellons	88.7	(70.8)
Abercarn ...	85.9	(84.6)	Pontypool	63.6	(21.5)
Ebbw Vale ...	83.9	(69.0)	Abergavenny	60.8	(49.7)
Abertillery ...	80.7	(84.7)	Magor	57.6	(58.9)
Pontypool ...	79.7	(49.5)	Chepstow	30.3	(58.1)
Tredeggar ...	78.4	(73.5)	Monmouth	22.7	(118.6)
Abergavenny ...	71.0	(51.4)			

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1925, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.		Death Rate per 1,000 living.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births.	
	1925	(1924)	1925	(1924)	1925	(1924)
ENGLAND & WALES ...	18.3	(18.8)	12.2	(12.2)	75.	(75.)
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	18.8	(19.4)	12.2	(12.3)	79.	(80.)
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000—50,000) ...	18.3	(18.9)	11.2	(11.2)	74.	(71.)
London ...	18.0	(18.7)	11.7	(12.1)	67.	(69.)
MONMOUTHSHIRE ...	21.5	(22.3)	10.0	(10.6)	83.8	(75.6)

In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by the Registrar-General have been used for the purposes of this table.



THE BLACK LINE INDICATES THE COUNTY INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.
THE RED LINE INDICATES THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

D.—DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS.

The County Birth Rate again shows a decline. The rate of 21·5 per 1,000 of population for the year 1925, is ·8 below that of the previous year, which was the lowest ever recorded. The County rate is still higher than the general rate for England and Wales (18·3).

The County Death Rate of 10·0 per 1,000 of population is low, particularly when compared with the rate for England and Wales (12·2).

The County Infant Mortality Rate has increased during the year, being 83·8 per 1,000 births. In the previous year (1924) the rate was 75·6. The infectious diseases of measles and whooping cough are primarily responsible for the increase. Epidemics of these diseases invariably occur every two years, and as expected, there was a large number of deaths during 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1925	(1924)	(1923)	(1922)
All Causes ...	679	(633)	(638)	(738)
Measles ...	15	(3)	(35)	(2)
Diphtheria ...	1	(3)	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	42	(9)	(42)	(21)
Influenza ...	9	(11)	(6)	(19)
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—	(1)	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	—	(1)	(4)	(3)
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	5	(7)	(7)	(5)
Bronchitis ...	59	(52)	(36)	(64)
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	99	(97)	(71)	(112)
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	56	(48)	(39)	(35)
Congenital Debility ...	275	(275)	(278)	(317)
Violence ...	5	(4)	(6)	(7)
Other defined diseases ...	123	(136)	(113)	(138)

E.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The following are the details of the Centres now open under the Scheme approved by the County Council and the Local Government Board in 1916, the number being 41:—

Location of Centre.	District Served.	Premises Utilised.	Date of Opening.	Day and Hour of Consultations.	Medical Officer.
ABERBARGOED ...	Aberbargoed	Domestic Arts Centre, Aberbargoed School	1917 Nov.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. S. R. E. Davies
ABERCARN ...	Abercarn and Cwmcarn	English Baptist Church Schoolroom, Abercarn	Oct. 18th	Thursday, 10 a.m.—12.30 p.m., 2.30—4.30 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Griffith
ABERGAVENNY ...	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Districts	Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Abergavenny	April 17th	Tuesday, 2.30—4.30 p.m.	Dr. W. D. Steel
ABERSYCHAN ...	Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
ABERTILLERY ...	Abertillery and Cwmtillery	Abertillery Workmen's Institute	1917 June 8th	Friday, 10.45 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
ABERTYSSWG ...	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel, Abertysswg	1920 July 7th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—12 noon	Dr. R. Lockhart
BEAUFORT ...	Beaufort	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Beaufort	1919 Sept. 3rd	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—2 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
BLACKWOOD ...	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Alternate Thursdays, 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
BLAENAVON ...	Blaenavon	Technical Build'gs, Cwmavon Road, Blaenavon	June 6th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. J. Reynolds
BLAINA ...	Blaina	Salem Chapel, Blaina	April 17th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
CAERLEON ...	Caerleon and Christchurch	Ty Craig, High Street, Caerleon	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
CALDICOT ...	Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot	1920 June 1st	Tuesday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. G. Russell
CHEPSTOW ...	Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge Street School, Chepstow	1917 March 27th	Thurs., 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. L. Drapes
CROSSKEYS ...	Crosskeys, Wattsville and Pontywaun	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Crosskeys	Nov. 23rd	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
CRUMLIN ...	Crumlin	4 Hafodyrynys Road, Crumlin	1924 March 28th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
CWM ...	Cwm, Victoria and Waunllwyd	Parish Hall, Cwm	1917 Nov. 20th	Thursday, 10.30 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. E. W. Griffith
CWMBRAN ...	Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Llanfrechfa and Ponthir	Council Offices, Cwmbran	March 21st	Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
EBBW VALE ...	Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ebbw Vale	March 13th	Tuesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
GARNDIFFAITH ...	Varteg, Victoria, Cwmavon and Garndiffaith	Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, Garndiffaith	Oct. 23rd	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity

Location of Centre.	District Served.	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening.	Day and Hour of Consultations.	Medical Officer.
LLANHILLETH ...	Llanhilleth and Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
MONMOUTH ...	Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Workingmen's Institute, Monk St., Monmouth	June 15th	Friday, 2.30—4.30 p.m.	Dr. W. H. Williams
NANTYGLO ...	Nantyglo	English Wesleyan Church, Nantyglo	1924 July 14th	Alternate Mondays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
NEWBRIDGE ...	Newbridge and Pentwynmawr	Tabernacle Baptist Schoolroom, Newbridge	1917 March 20th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
NEWPORT ...	Malpas, St. Brides, Magor, &c.	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport	March 21st	Wednesday, once a month, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
NEW TREDEGAR...	New Tredegar and Cwmsyflog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	March 29th	Thursday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
OAKDALE ...	Oakdale, Rhiw-syr-dafydd and Markham Village	Women's Institute, Oakdale	1918 Oct. 25th	Alternate Thursdays, 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
PANTEG ...	Panteg, Griffithstown and Pontrhydyrun	Sailors & Soldiers Wives' Club Room, Sebastopol	1917 March 21st	Thursday, 10—12 noon	Dr. W. Austin
PENGAM ...	Pengam, Fleur-de-lis and Maesycwmmwr	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	March 12th	Monday, 10—12 noon, and 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
PONTNEWYNYDD	Pontnewynydd	Wesleyan Chapel, Pontnewynydd	April 19th	Thursday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
PONTYMOILE ...	Pontymoile, New Inn, and Pontypool Road	Mission Hall, Pontymoile	Oct. 17th	Tuesday, 10—12 noon	Dr. W. Austin
PONTYPOOL ...	Pontypool, Mamhilad, Glascoed, Goytre, Coedypaen, Llangibby	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, Pontypool	May 9th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
RHYMNEY ...	Rhymney and Rhymney Bridge	Domestic Arts Centre, Middle Rhymney School	March 12th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood
RISCA ...	Risca	Domestic Arts Centre, Danygraig School, Risca	March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. G. Russell
ROGERSTONE ...	Rogerstone, Bassaleg and Rhiwderin	Domestic Arts Centre, Rogerstone School	Nov. 12th	Alternate Fridays, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Proudfoot
RUMNEY ...	St. Mellons, Peterstone and Rumney	Wesleyan Chapel, Rumney	Dec. 5th	Alternate Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Proudfoot
SIX BELLS ...	Six Bells and Aberbeeg	Methodist Chapel, High Street, Six Bells	1920 Sept. 29th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
TREDEGAR ...	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Troedrhiwgwair, Bedwellty Pits, Hollybush	Wesleyan Chapel, Harcourt Street, Tredegar	1917 Feb. 26th	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. E. T. H. Davies
TRETHOMAS ...	Trethomas, Bedwas and Machen	Baptist Chapel, Trethomas	April 19th	Tuesday, 10—12 noon, and 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
UPPER PONTNEWYDD...	Pontnewydd and Croesycellio	New Hall, Pontnewydd	1919 June 16th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
USK ...	Usk and Rural Area	Town Hall, Usk	Nov. 11th	Alternate Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. G. Russell
YNYSDDU ...	Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu	Domestic Arts Centre, Ynysddu School	1917 March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Scott

F.—DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES.

Centre	Medical Officer	No. of Infants on Register at 31st Dec., 1925.	INFANTS.				NURSING MOTHERS.		EXPECTANT MOTHERS.	
			No. of new cases which attended during year.	No. of Re-visits.	Total No. of Visits.	Average Attendance at each Session.	No. on Register.	No. of Attendances during year.	No. on Register.	No. of Attendances during year.
Aberbargoed	Dr. S. R. E. Davies	269	129	954	1083	22.6	49	145	15	24
Abercarn	Dr. E. M. Griffith	304	171	3297	3468	75.4	2	2	4	4
Abergavenny	Dr. W. D. Steel	185	115	872	987	20.6	2	5	1	2
Abersychan	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	177	121	574	695	14.8	13	13	—	—
Abertillery	Dr. T. B. Smith	782	532	3518	4050	86.2	111	212	19	41
Abertysswg	Dr. R. Lockhart	150	75	878	953	20.3	18	223	11	57
Beaufort	Dr. M. Scott	233	136	773	909	18.9	29	48	3	3
Blackwood	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	260	167	717	884	38.4	48	112	11	21
Blaenavon	Dr. J. Reynolds	448	283	1091	1384	28.8	158	292	14	14
Blaina	Dr. T. W. Bevan	152	122	678	800	17.0	4	4	2	3
Caerleon	Dr. M. Gordon	76	49	433	482	18.5	1	4	1	5
Caldicot	Dr. G. Russell	120	61	1117	1178	25.1	24	172	15	16
Chepstow	Dr. T. L. Drapes	224	103	2181	2284	47.6	4	11	5	9
Crosskeys	Dr. M. Scott	111	74	868	942	20.5	21	39	1	1
Crumlin	Dr. M. Proudfoot	171	137	663	800	17.0	22	60	11	28
Cwm	Dr. E. W. Griffith	223	126	965	1091	23.2	54	115	2	2
Cwmbran	Dr. W. Austin	210	89	965	1054	22.4	73	162	5	10
Ebbw Vale	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	413	275	1841	2116	44.1	136	286	1	1
Garndiffaith	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	150	110	450	560	11.9	4	4	—	—
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	433	230	1838	2068	44.0	70	211	16	30
Monmouth	Dr. W. H. Williams	143	111	1292	1403	30.0	—	—	17	74
Nantyglo	Dr. M. Proudfoot	172	89	322	411	17.1	2	4	—	—
Newbridge	Dr. W. Austin	234	150	1603	1760	37.7	49	108	—	—
Newport	Dr. M. Gordon	17	9	19	28	9.3	1	8	1	1
New Tredegar	Dr. M. Scott	227	154	840	994	21.2	23	68	8	15
Oakdale	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	171	96	746	842	35.0	39	141	11	39
Panteg	Dr. W. Austin	188	92	756	848	18.0	53	135	—	—
Pengam	Dr. M. Scott	360	221	1642	1863	38.8	72	244	16	24
Pontnewydd	Dr. W. Austin	193	85	857	942	20.0	52	113	3	6
Pontnewynydd	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	214	143	785	928	19.3	30	45	3	10
Pontymoile	Dr. W. Austin	185	108	821	929	19.8	60	153	1	4
Pontypool	Dr. W. Austin	241	117	815	932	19.8	43	119	8	11
Rhymney	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood	227	143	1081	1224	26.0	46	129	11	20
Risca	Dr. G. Russell	300	139	1985	2124	45.2	36	150	14	39
Rogerstone	Dr. M. Proudfoot	116	59	606	665	26.6	17	74	4	9
Rumney	Dr. M. Proudfoot	64	46	236	282	12.3	2	43	3	10
Six Bells	Dr. T. B. Smith	353	162	1798	1960	40.8	51	139	12	27
Tredegar	Dr. E. T. H. Davies	541	362	1557	1919	40.8	—	—	—	—
Trethomas	Dr. M. Scott	255	142	1350	1492	31.0	33	124	12	27
Usk	Dr. G. Russell	57	44	168	212	8.8	11	96	3	7
Ynysddu	Dr. M. Scott	209	112	926	1038	22.1	35	122	4	4
Totals		9558	5689	44878	50584	25.8	1498	4135	268	598
Last year (1924)...		9007	5805	38216	44021	24.17	1144	2804	162	330

**G.—DETAILS OF MOTHERS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH
ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE CENTRES.**

Debility	...	350	Venereal Disease	...	3
Constipation	...	311	Albuminaria	...	2
Anæmia	...	277	Defective Vision	...	2
Deficient Lactation	...	83	Epilepsy	...	2
Bronchitis	...	62	Lumbago	...	2
Gastric Catarrh	...	60	Neurasthenia	...	2
Rheumatism	...	55	Otorrhœa	...	2
Hæmorrhoids	...	39	Phlebitis	...	2
Prolapse of Uterus	...	37	Partial Paralysis	...	2
Mastitis	...	36	Sterility	...	2
Skin Diseases	...	36	Tumours	...	2
Menorrhagia	...	29	Vaginal Discharge	...	2
Varicose Veins	...	28	Appendicitis	...	1
Sore Nipples	...	27	Boils	...	1
Bronchial Catarrh	...	26	Burns	...	1
Dyspepsia	...	23	Backache	...	1
Amenorrhœa	...	22	Cystic Swelling	...	1
Eye Disease	...	20	Diarrhœa	...	1
Nephritis	...	19	Dysmenorrhœa	...	1
Leucorrhœa	...	15	Deafness	...	1
Malnutrition	...	14	Herpes	...	1
Pyorrhœa	...	11	Headache	...	1
Goitre	...	10	Incontinence of Urine	...	1
Retroversion of Uterus	...	10	Incontinence of Fæces	...	1
Heart Disease	...	9	Inguinal Hernia	...	1
Cystitis	...	9	Lactorrhœa	...	1
Neuralgia	...	9	Pleurodynia	...	1
Enlarged Glands	...	7	Presbyopia	...	1
Influenza	...	7	Sciatica	...	1
Naso-pharyngeal Catarrh	...	6	Tubercular Glands	...	1
Tuberculosis (various forms)...	...	6	Tonsillitis	...	1
Pruritis	...	5	White Leg	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	5	Whitlow	...	1
Breast Abscess	...	3	Miscellaneous	...	45
Gastritis	...	3			
Laryngitis	...	3			
Ruptured Perineum	...	3			
			Total	...	<u>1,766</u>

**H.—DETAILS OF INFANTS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH
ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE CENTRES.**

Bronchitis & Bronchial Catarrh	1783	Whooping Cough	...	166
Skin Diseases	952	Gastritis	...	146
Gastro Enteritis	641	Intertrigo	...	141
Constipation	537	Rickets	...	139
Debility	314	Stomatitis	...	116
Otorrhœa	265	Protuberant Umbilicus	...	113
Diarrhœa	226	Tonsils and Adenoids	...	106
Umbilical Hernia	221	Enlarged Glands	...	94
Minor Digestive Troubles	218	Anæmia	...	84
Eye Disease	214	Malnutrition	...	79
Phimosis	211	Nasal Catarrh	...	73

Inguinal Hernia	...	73	Scurvy	...	4
Septic Umbilicus	...	67	Spinda Bifida	...	4
Measles	...	61	Congenital Deformity	...	3
Marasmus	...	60	Prolapse of Anus	...	3
Pneumonia	...	60	Torticollis	...	3
Worms	...	55	Anuria	...	2
Undescended Testicles	...	40	Accidents	...	2
Tape Worms	...	37	Cellulitis	...	2
Dental Caries	...	36	Dislocation of Hip	...	2
Nævus	...	35	Enlarged Thyroid	...	2
Chicken Pox	...	29	Fractures	...	2
Influenza	...	26	Facial Paralysis	...	2
Abscesses	...	23	Hydrocephalus	...	2
Jaundice	...	23	Hæmorrhage in Sterno Mas-		
Squint	...	23	toid	...	2
Croup	...	21	Lipoma	...	2
Talipes Equino Varus	...	21	Paralysis of Arm	...	2
Hydrocele	...	20	Spastic Paralysis	...	2
Fits	...	17	Alopecia	...	I
Infantile Paralysis	...	17	Appendicitis	...	I
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	16	Boils	...	I
Dentition	...	16	Bruises	...	I
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	15	Cavernous Angioma	...	I
Mastitis	...	12	Congenital Cataract	...	I
Mentally Deficient	...	12	Deformed Ear	...	I
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	11	Dislocation of Left Radius	...	I
Congenital Heart Disease	...	11	Fracture and Paralysis of Arm	...	I
Tongue-tied	...	10	Hare Lip	...	I
Burns	...	10	Heat Stroke	...	I
Tonsillitis	...	9	Injury to Eye	...	I
Heart Disease	...	9	Imperforate Hymen	...	I
Venereal Disease	...	8	Mongol	...	I
Hypospadias	...	8	Microcephalus	...	I
Cleft Palate and Hare Lip	...	7	Obstruction of Stenson's Duct	...	I
Empyema	...	7	Pediculosis Capitus	...	I
Laryngitis	...	7	Pes Valgus	...	I
Anorexia	...	6	Paresis	...	I
Snuffles	...	6	Scarlet Fever	...	I
Tonsils Enlarged	...	6	Ulcerated Palate	...	I
Tuberculosis (various forms)...	...	6	Webbed Toes	...	I
Chorea	...	5	Miscellaneous	...	124
Dactylitis	...	5			
Epilepsy	...	5			
Cleft Palate	...	4			
			Total	...	<u>7,981</u>

I.—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF CENTRES.

I.—Dr. MARY SCOTT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS AT CENTRES.

	Beaufort.	Crosskeys	New Tredegar.	Pengam.	Trethomas	Ynysddu.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed ...	64·5	60·9	65·1	64·7	62·5	62·8
Artificially-fed ...	23·5	34·5	29·3	24·4	24·6	23·5
Breast and Artificially-fed	12·0	4·6	5·6	10·9	12·9	13·7

BEAUFORT CENTRE.—This Centre has made very satisfactory progress during the year, and the numbers attending continued to increase. The total attendances in 1925 were 909, compared with 848 in 1924.

The number of entirely breast-fed babies attending this Centre also shewed an increase over previous years.

CROSSKEYS CENTRE.—The percentage of entirely breast-fed babies attending this Centre still remains satisfactory. The total attendances for the year shewed a marked increase, being 942 for 1925, as against 689 for 1924.

The lady members of the Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee take a warm interest in the work of the Centre, and both Nurse Lord and myself are indebted to them for their kindly interest and help. They have also given assistance out of their funds to several mothers who were temporarily in need of extra nourishment.

PENGAM CENTRE.—This is one of our very busy and satisfactory Centres, and our total attendances increased from 1389 in 1924 to 1863 in 1925.

We have here all the facilities necessary for ante-natal work. This work is progressing, but progressing slowly. During the year there were 24 attendances of expectant mothers for examination and advice.

NEW TREDEGAR CENTRE.—The number of infants brought to this Centre shewed a very satisfactory increase for the year. The total attendances were 874 in 1924 and 994 in 1925.

I am again much indebted to the Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for the various sums of money given me out of their funds during the year. This money was used in paying for extra nourishment for necessitous babies or mothers who did not come under the County Council Scheme.

TRETHOMAS CENTRE.—Although the number of infants brought to this Centre during 1925 shewed a slight decrease, namely of 31, the work done in this district and Centre in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare continues to be very satisfactory.

The very severe weather at the end of the year affected the attendances at this Centre, as many mothers have to walk long distances. The worst snowstorm of the year took place on the day on which Trethomas Centre is open. That day the attendance was practically nil.

YNYSDDU CENTRE.—The attendances at this Centre continued to be satisfactory, and as a rule we had a very busy morning at Ynysddu.

The Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee again came to our aid and kindly granted us sums of money from their funds to help several mothers through the difficult times which were experienced in this area during the year.

GENERAL.—The amount of breast-feeding in the above Centres remained satisfactory, and in no case did it fall below 60%. This means that over 60% of all infants of nine months and under were entirely breast-fed.

The work of the Centres continues to be mainly of a preventative nature. Many healthy children attend and are encouraged to do so, a fact which also renders the work, from our point of view, more interesting than it might otherwise be.

Very special care was given to the question of feeding, as a large proportion of infants' ailments arise from improper feeding, these ailments being merely symptoms of gastro-intestinal disturbance.

Bronchial troubles were again the chief ailments from which infants suffered. Many were of mild form, but many on the other hand, during the winter months especially, were the forerunners of serious lung complications.

Unsatisfactory umbilical conditions were, during the year, again far too common. On their first visit to the Centres many infants have a slightly septic umbilicus. With proper treatment this sepsis clears in a few days, but almost invariably is followed by a slight protuberance. Should the child be cross or develop a cough, the weakened wall gives way and an umbilical hernia develops. It would appear, therefore, that the chief source of the trouble is some slight infection, and that greater care might be exercised in the first weeks of the infant's life in rendering everything which comes in contact with the umbilicus absolutely aseptic.

Foods were given at those Centres, under certain conditions, to necessitous expectant mothers, to necessitous nursing mothers, and to infants. The foods given were in the form of dried milks. Cows' milk was also given in many cases.

Drugs are not prescribed to any great extent at the Centres. Infants do not require much in the way of drugs. For mothers a simple tonic is given where required.

2.—Dr. WINIFRED AUSTIN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Newbridge.	Pontymoile.	Pontnewydd.	Panteg.	Cwmbran.	Rogerstone.
Breast-fed ...	101	79	72	73	80	40
Breast and Bottle ...	34	21	18	13	17	12
Cows' Milk ...	12	13	10	12	18	13
Dried Milk ...	20	11	21	23	15	6
Nestle's ...	9	1	5	3	6	3
Proprietary Foods ...	2	2	1	2	4	—

NEWBRIDGE CENTRE.—Comparing the attendances in 1925 with those of the previous year, the number of children on the register decreased by 15, but the total number of attendances increased by 135, and the average attendance at each session increased by 2.2. The number of mothers advised increased by 23, and the total number of their attendances by 53.

178 infants under 12 months of age attended during the year. Of these 101 were breast-fed for at least 8 months, 34 breast-fed with supplementary bottle-feeding, 43 weaned from the breast before 4 months old and fed as follows:—cows' milk 12, dried milk 20, Nestle's milk 9 and proprietary foods 2.

The percentage of breast-fed babies increased from 48.1 in 1924 to 56.6 in 1925.

13 mothers who were breast feeding were advised that other food was necessary, but in the majority of cases bottle feeding was established before coming to the Clinic or adopted in intervals between Clinic visits. Most mothers are loth to wean at 9 months, and in 13 cases had not done so at 15 months.

PONTYMOILE CENTRE.—This Clinic shews a decided increase in numbers. Total number of attendances 929, compared with 833 in 1924. Number of children on register 185, compared with 166. The average attendance increased from 17.3 to 19.8. The number of mothers advised was 50 in 1924, with a total attendance of 70; and 61, with a total attendance of 156, in 1925.

127 infants under 12 months of age attended during the year. Of these 79 were breast-fed (*i.e.* 62.2%, the percentage for the previous year being 60.6), 21 on breast supplemented by bottle (*i.e.* 16.5%, the percentage for 1924 being 12.8), 13 on cows' milk, 11 on dried milk, 1 on Nestle's milk and 2 on proprietary foods.

Nine mothers were definitely advised at the Clinic that their breast milk was insufficient and other foods must be given; the remainder started bottle feeding on their own initiative or the advice of their doctor.

43 children over 2 years of age attended for treatment of various minor ailments, and 20 cases in which children were not weaned until over 1 year of age (in one case not until over 2 years). This number is noted as late weaning is responsible for debility, delay in growth and rickets in a good proportion of the children one and two years of age.

PONTNEWYDD CENTRE.—Compared with the previous year, this Clinic shows a slight decrease of 4 in the number of children on the register. There is, however, an increase of 68 in the total number of attendances, and the average attendance per session has risen from 18·2 to 20.

Of the 127 children under 12 months of age, 72 were breast-fed, this being a percentage of 56·7, as compared with 45·9 in the previous year. The percentage of infants fed on breast and bottle decreased from 23·7 to 14·1. Of the infants entirely on bottle feeding up to the age of 3 months, 10 were fed on cows' milk, 21 on dried milk, 5 on Nestle's and 1 on Allenbury's foods.

43 children over 2 years of age were seen during the year and treated for minor ailments. 55 mothers were advised or treated, *i.e.* 17 more than in the previous year.

There has been a very marked increase in the unemployment in this area during the latter part of the year, resulting in a large increase in the amount of free food supplied at the Centre.

PANTEG CENTRE.—Attendance at this Clinic during 1925, compared with the previous year, is as follows:—Children: the total number on the register decreased by 4, total attendance increased by 70, and the attendance at each session increased by 1·8. Mothers: number of mothers advised shows an increase of 17, and their total number of attendances an increase of 66.

The percentage of breast feeding in infants under a year old shows a marked increase, being 57·9, compared with 40 per cent. in 1924. The percentage of breast and bottle-fed has decreased correspondingly, being 10·3, compared with 18·4 in 1924, while the percentage of bottle-fed remains about the same. The actual numbers were 126 infants, 73 breast-fed, 13 breast and bottle, 23 dried milk, 3 Nestle's and 2 proprietary foods.

Late weaning detracted from the advantages of breast feeding in 19 cases.

48 children over 2 years of age attended for minor ailments, principally enlarged tonsils and adenoids, skin troubles and intestinal worms.

The annual baby show for the mothers of Panteg and Pontymoile Clinics was held in July at S. Hilda's Hall, with the same success as in former years.

CWMBRAN CENTRE.—This Clinic shows a marked increase in average attendance at each session, this figure being 22·4, compared with 16·8 in the previous year. This increase is due to a more regular attendance, as there were 10 fewer cases on the register than in the previous year, but 1,054 attendances instead of 810.

Of 140 infants under 12 months of age 80 were breast-fed, *i.e.* 57·1 per cent., a similar percentage to the preceding year. The percentage of breast and bottle-fed decreased from 18·6 to 12·1, and the percentage of wholly bottle-fed increased correspondingly. 14 of the breast-fed infants were not weaned until more than 1 year old.

55 children over 2 years of age attended the Clinic during the year, paying in most cases only one or two visits each.

The unemployment in this area has increased considerably during the year, causing a rise in the amount of free food given at the Centre.

PONTYPOOL CENTRE.—This Clinic shows a decrease in numbers compared with the previous year, the average attendance being 19·8, compared with 21·1 in 1924, and the number on the register 241, compared with 272.

Of the 161 infants under 12 years of age 89 were breast-fed, *i.e.* 55·27 per cent., and 28 breast and bottle-fed, *i.e.* 17·3, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 59·6 and 18·2. In 23 cases of breast feeding the babies were not weaned at the proper time.

60 children over 2 years of age attended during the year.

The number of mothers advised shows a satisfactory increase, 43 nursing and 8 expectant, compared with 30 nursing and 2 expectant in the previous year.

Three sets of twins were brought to the Centre during the year, and 5 of the babies are doing well. The other had severe congenital heart trouble and was unable to contend with an attack of acute bronchitis.

ROGERSTONE.—The average attendance at this Clinic for 1925 is 26·6 per session, compared with 22·6 for the previous year. There were 7 more children on the register and a total attendance of 665, compared with 611 in 1924.

The percentages of feeding in infants under one year of age show rather a marked change, the percentage of bottle-fed remains about the same, the percentage of breast-fed has decreased from 71·6 to 59·5, and the percentage of partly breast, partly bottle-fed has increased from 2 to 14·2.

Seven breast-fed babies were not weaned until over one year of age. 25 children over two years of age attended during the year.

The Clinic is held once a fortnight for a morning session and is always well-attended.

3.—Dr. GLADYS RUSSELL, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF FEEDING.

	Caldicot.	Black-wood.	Oakdale.	Risca.
	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	59	62	69½	76
Breast and Artificially-fed ...	6	4	9	8
Artificially-fed	35	34	21½	16

CALDICOT CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 120, and the average attendance at each session 25·1, showing a slight increase since last year. The attendance is really satisfactory when one considers the long distances some of the mothers have to walk—two and three miles.

The percentage of breast-fed babies is unfortunately lower than last year. This may be due to the lowered vitality of the mothers from lack of adequate nourishment.

Thirty-seven mothers received treatment at the Centre during the year. Three of these were ante-natal cases.

BLACKWOOD CENTRE.—This is now a whole-day Clinic, held fortnightly, and has an average attendance of 38·4. The attendance is very satisfactory and justifies the change from just the morning session Clinic.

The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 260, an increase of 64 on last year.

The number of breast-fed babies shows only a very slight increase on last year.

63 mothers received treatment during the year. Eight of these were pre-maternity cases.

OAKDALE CENTRE.—This Clinic is now held at the Women's Hut, and this is found to be more satisfactory from all points of view. The average attendance of infants is 35, so although this is officially a half-day Clinic, it is usually necessary to continue for a short time in the afternoon. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 171, showing a slight increase on last year.

The Voluntary workers at this Centre are very helpful in encouraging the mothers to attend.

The percentage of breast-fed babies shows a pleasing increase on last year, being now nearly 70 per cent.

64 mothers were advised during the year. Nine of those were ante-natal cases.

RISCA CENTRE.—The average attendance of infants at each session was 45·2, and the number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 300.

The percentage of breast-fed babies is practically the same as last year—76 per cent. This is quite pleasing when one considers the industrial distress which was present for a time, necessitating cutting down much of the mother's essential nourishment.

At one time during the year nearly 100 children over three months were taken at random, and it was ascertained how many had been vaccinated. It was rather alarming to find that only one-third had been done. The necessity for vaccination, however, is being urged, and it is to be hoped that most of the parents will make good their neglect.

During the year 84 mothers received advice or treatment. Sixteen of these were pre-maternity cases.

GENERAL.—The Centres were carried on on the same lines as previously. The provisions that have been made for the health of the mothers and children take the forms both of general measures for the conservation of health, and of special measures directed against particular problems and diseases.

Many of the mothers attend regularly with their children when these are well, but there are still several mothers who only bring their infants when they are ailing. It is difficult to make them understand that the Clinics are mainly preventative and educative and not merely curative. Instruction is given regarding the feeding, hygiene and general care of the infants, including the best style of clothing for it to wear.

A supply of simple tonics for the mothers and children, simple digestive remedies, and a few ointments are kept at the Clinics and are given when required.

Ante-natal Work.—The ante-natal work at the Clinics is showing a satisfactory increase. Prejudices against examination are being overcome gradually, and it is gratifying to find that women who have had pre-maternity consultations previously will return voluntarily in a subsequent pregnancy. One tries to get the patients to seek advice early, even, if possible, before the third month of pregnancy. They can then have their general condition overhauled and be given advice and general rules for the rest of pregnancy and a warning to report any suspicious symptoms. In a great majority of cases carious teeth have to receive special attention.

However, there is great need still for the further development of this branch of the work, and for the education both of the expectant mother and the general public on the vital necessity for proper ante-natal care.

4.—Dr. MARY H. M. GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF FEEDING.

	Usk.	Caerleon.	Newport.
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	78	60	68
Breast and Artificially-fed ...	4	6	16
Artificially-fed	8	34	16

USK CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was the same as that of the preceding year—57, but the average attendance per session shows an increase. Greater interest in the Clinic is being taken by some of the mothers in the rural districts, and many of them walk long distances to come to the Centre.

Only a little free food was given away to one or two necessitous cases. The usual simple drugs for mothers and babies were prescribed.

The mothers attending the Centre were all very healthy and realised the value of breast feeding; 78 per cent. of the infants were breast-fed.

Four expectant mothers came to the Clinic and attended regularly right up to term. They seemed to appreciate the advice given.

The interest taken in the Clinic by the lady members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and their regular attendance on Clinic days, was much appreciated by Nurse Dunn and myself.

CAERLEON CENTRE.—This Centre still continues to be well attended. The total attendances have increased from 467 in 1924 to 482 in 1925.

The proportion of breast-fed babies has increased, but there is still a tendency to resort to artificial feeding before giving breast feeding a fair trial. Every endeavour is made at the Clinic to encourage breast feeding, but many of the mothers seem to think they are physically unfit to nurse their babies after two or three months, and they are more keen to change over to artificial feeding entirely than to supplement the breast milk.

Very little ante-natal work is done at the Clinic, but one or two expectant mothers attended regularly. Simple medicines for minor ailments were prescribed. Free food was given away to a few deserving cases.

NEWPORT CLINIC.—This Clinic is provided for the mothers and infants in the rural districts of Magor, Malpas and St. Brides.

During the past year meetings were held at occasional intervals. All the mothers had to come long distances, but they appreciated the Centre and attended well when the weather was at all favourable.

As there seemed to be a desire for more frequent Clinics, it has been decided to have monthly meetings during the year 1926.

One expectant and 6 nursing mothers attended the Centre for advice and treatment of minor complaints.

5.—Dr. MARGARET M. PROUDFOOT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF INFANT FEEDING.

	Rumney.	Crumlin.	Nantyglo.	Blaina.
	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed ...	77·3	56	69·7	59
Breast and Artificially-fed ...	—	4·2	2·7	8·6
Artificially-fed ...	22·7	39·8	27·6	32·4

RUMNEY CENTRE.—At this Centre the work during the year has been very encouraging. The average attendance at each session was 12·3 and shows a steady increase. The mothers take a keen interest in the Clinic and bring their babies regularly. The number of breast-fed babies at this Centre is very satisfactory.

The majority of the children were healthy and showed no defects. In a number of cases advice was given for certain minor ailments. Simple medicines and ointments are given at the Centre. Those children suffering from more serious conditions are referred to their own doctors.

Twenty-five nursing and 4 expectant mothers attended the Clinic during the year.

CRUMLIN CENTRE.—The numbers attending this Centre are rapidly increasing. New cases during the year numbered 137. The average attendance at each session increased from 11·6 in 1924 to 17·0 in 1925.

The percentage of breast-fed babies at this Centre is too low, but it is encouraging to find that it is increasing considerably.

The mothers on the whole attend regularly and take a keen interest in the Centre. They are beginning to attend more regularly too when the child reaches the weaning stage and to realize the importance of weaning at the proper time.

The drugs prescribed at the Centre are mainly simple tonics, aperients, medicines for teething upsets and ointments for skin diseases.

Several mothers attended the Centre during the year for advice. The arrangements for ante-natal work are now very satisfactory here and the numbers of expectant mothers seeking advice are gradually increasing. During the year eleven new cases attended the ante-natal department. Most of these came in the early months of pregnancy, and one was able to keep them under observation during practically the whole time. It is to be hoped that this very important branch of the work will continue to grow.

In eight cases it was found necessary to give free food at this Clinic. In all these cases the circumstances were very carefully investigated.

NANTYGLO CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 172, and the average attendance at each session was 17·1, a slight increase on the previous year.

The percentage of breast-fed babies at this Centre is 69·7. This is very satisfactory considering the amount of industrial depression in this district, which in a great many cases affects the general health of the mothers.

The attendance at the Centre is rather irregular in some cases. Some are inclined to bring their babies only when they are ailing. They do not realize the importance of attending regularly and that a large part of the work of the Clinic is preventive and educative.

Two nursing mothers attended for advice or treatment during the year. No expectant mothers attended. There are no facilities for much ante-natal work at this Centre.

Very few drugs were prescribed during the year. Free food was given in several necessitous cases.

BLAINA CENTRE.—There is a decrease in the number of infants on the register as compared with 1924, also in the average attendance at each session.

The percentage of breast-fed babies is very good for this district, where there has been such prolonged unemployment. In many cases the mothers have suffered from lack of proper nourishment. In a number of cases, however, it has been possible to enable the mother to continue breast-feeding her baby by allowing her a supply of fresh or dried milk.

Four nursing and two expectant mothers attended during the year.

Very few drugs were prescribed. Free food was given in several necessitous cases.

6.—Dr. E. W. GRIFFITH, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

CWM CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 223. 126 new babies were brought to the Centre, and 965 re-visits were made, making a total attendance of 1,091.

The average attendance per session was 23·2. No increase from last year's number is shown.

Methods of feeding of children attending the Centre :—

Breast-fed	...	...	96	Nestle's	...	...	13
Glaxo	...	...	24	Allenbury's	...	...	3
Ambrosia	...	...	3	Cows' Milk	...	...	5
Glaxo and Breast	...	...	14	Cows' Milk and Breast	...	...	5
Ambrosia and Breast	...	...	3				

The number of breast-fed children is still markedly in excess. In five cases where breast feeding was impossible the mothers, in spite of obvious difficulties, have been successful in rearing their babies on cows' milk. This has necessitated much care and perseverance on their part.

A writer in the medical press has recently condemned the practice of combining breast with artificial feeding on the ground that in these cases the breast dries up and ceases to function.

The reverse has been found in this Clinic. In 21 cases the combination has given excellent results, the breasts continuing to secrete and providing at least 2—3 of the feeds per day, thus supplying the child with its natural food and the necessary vitamins.

A survey of the ailments of mothers attending the Centre shows that the chief ailments are those associated with lactation readily responding to treatment and leaving no permanent after effects.

There has only been one instance of an inflamed breast, a condition very prevalent before the days of Welfare Centres and modern breast hygiene.

Amongst the ailments of infants attending the Centre two unusual cases were noted, *i.e.* heat stroke and obstruction of stenson's duct.

The cause of the first condition was undoubtedly an inadequate head covering and undue exposure of the child's head to the sun. The child made a complete recovery. This emphasises the importance, even in this country, of a substantial covering for the head and neck of a baby on sunny days. For the second case, little can be done in the way of remedy.

Bronchial catarrh, in some cases followed by bronchitis, has been much too prevalent. The chief underlying causes appear to be:—

- (1) Absence of perambulators in many of the homes.
- (2) Absence of suitable sleeping cots.
- (3) Prolonged exposure while bathing.

In the absence of the two former necessities, the baby spends the day in a heated kitchen and is only carried out for short intervals. Hence, instead of the child spending five or more hours in the open air and becoming "hardened," it remains indoors, often in a draughty room, and becomes "soft," and thus very susceptible to microbic invasion. The bathing should be thorough but performed as rapidly as possible.

Free food is distributed after the closest investigation. The number of applicants whose scale of earnings have been below that fixed by the Council, have been few.

Cough mixtures and aperients are the medicines chiefly prescribed.

Two ante-natal cases have presented themselves for advice.

The Clinic is much indebted to the kindly and helpful assistance of Mrs. Parry, and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking her, and also record my appreciation of the efficient and enthusiastic work of Nurse Redwood and Nurse Golding.

7.—Dr. S. R. ECCLES DAVIES, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERBARGOED CENTRE.—The attendance at this Clinic during the past year was much the same as the previous year. The babies attending the Clinic were fed as follows:—

Breast-fed	...	...	154	Glaxo	...	...	6
Cows' Milk	...	...	11	Cow and Gate	...	...	4
Nestle's	...	...	13	Mixed Feeding	...	...	11

It is thus seen that a very large majority of the babies are being breast-fed, which is very satisfactory.

During the year 235 nursing mothers attended for treatment and advice and also 43 expectant mothers. There is a distinct keenness shewn by the mothers to avail themselves of the facilities obtained at the Clinic and to follow the advice and instructions given them.

The large majority of mothers seek advice on account of digestive troubles in their babies, and most of these are due to haphazard feeding. There is no doubt that the mothers are beginning to realize the immense importance of regular and systematic feeding, which is so beneficial to the infants and enables the mothers to obtain the necessary opportunities for rest.

Considering the great poverty in this district, there are very few infants on free food.

8.—Dr. R. LOCKHART, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERTYSSWG CENTRE.—Although the total attendances of infants showed a decrease on the preceding year, there was an increase in the number of new cases attending. The number of nursing and expectant mothers visiting the Centre showed a big improvement.

The children attending the Centre were fed as follows :—

Breast	...	...	85	Cows' Milk	...	...	6
Glaxo	...	...	2	Nestle's	...	...	3
Breast supplemented by Cows' Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Breast supplemented by Glaxo	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

From this table it will be seen that breast-feeding is by far the most popular, and this is encouraged as much as possible. Grants of milk are made in cases where the mother's milk is deteriorating, in order that they may stimulate their own milk by taking it. Mixed feeding is discouraged as much as possible, as also is the feeding by Nestle's.

A large number of mothers in this district feed their babies on this milk because, no doubt, it is pleasanter to take and easy to get, but it is very deficient in certain important constituents, and has much to do with the causation of rickets and stunted growth in children. Now, however, the number using this milk is decreasing, and I hope to stop it entirely next year.

The Centre has been well attended in the last year. The slightly smaller number of infants attending is no doubt due to the exceptionally bad weather experienced this winter. The attendance of mothers has increased markedly, and there is every hope that it will further increase next year.

Many mothers are very poor and milk is being supplied free in those special cases.

The drugs used are mainly tonics, cough mixtures and laxatives, along with ointments for skin conditions.

The ante-natal work is of necessity inadequate owing to lack of facilities for thorough examination and treatment. However, the great increase in the numbers of both expectant and nursing mothers attending, shows their increased interest, and also that they are gradually realising the benefits to be obtained by attendance at the Centre.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Health Visitor who is in charge of the Centre for her unfailing help and courtesy.

9.—Dr. W. D. STEEL, Medical Officer of Health, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVENTNY CENTRE.—There was an increase in the number of infants on the register during the year and in the number of attendances. The average attendance rose from 18·1 to 20·6.

Nearly all the mothers who visited the Centre sought advice only in regard to the welfare of their infants.

The feeding of the children was by the breast or bottle or both, as follows:—

Breast-fed	...	...	...	72
Bottle-fed	...	...	...	37
Breast and Bottle	...	...	...	6

There is an increase in the proportion of bottle-fed babies.

A small proportion of the mothers attending the Clinic were given food free, but these were only necessitous poor.

The funds collected by the ladies of the local Committee are of much value in assisting necessitous cases which do not come within the County scale.

It was not necessary to prescribe many drugs at the Centre during the year.

As stated in previous reports, the premises are not specially fitted for ante-natal work, and the number of women seeking advice in this connection was small.

Appreciation must be expressed of the help rendered by the Voluntary Helpers at the Centre.

10.—Dr. R. J. S. VERITY, Medical Officer of Health, Abersychan Urban District Council.

ABERSYCHAN CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 177, being an increase of 32 upon last year. 121 new cases were brought to the Centre; these, with 574 re-visits, making a total of 695 attendances, the average attendance at each session being 14·8.

Thirteen nursing mothers attended during the year.

The children attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast-fed	...	...	105	Glaxo	...	...	35
Cows' Milk	...	...	12	Ambrosia	...	...	5
Allenbury's	...	...	2	Savory & Moore's	...	...	4
Breast and Artificial	...	...	12				

Foods have not been given free; the mothers who have received food have undertaken to pay for it at some future time.

Not many drugs have been prescribed at this Centre.

Very little ante-natal work has been done, there not being suitable accommodation.

GARNDIFFAITH CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 150, being an increase of 20 upon last year. 110 new cases were brought to the Centre during the year and 450 re-visits were made, making a total of 560 attendances, the average attendance at each session being 11.9.

Four nursing mothers sought advice during the year.

The children attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast	...	...	100	Glaxo	...	...	30
Ambrosia	...	...	3	Allenbury's	...	...	4
Breast and Artificial	...	...	8	Cows' Milk	...	...	5

There has been one case in which food has been given free, in all other cases the mothers have undertaken to pay for it at a future time.

Few drugs have been prescribed at this Centre.

Little ante-natal work has been done, there being no accommodation.

PONTNEWYNYDD CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 214. 143 new cases were brought to the Centre during the year and 785 re-visits made, making a total of 928 attendances, the average attendance at each session being 19.3.

Nursing Mothers.—There were 30 new cases with 15 re-visits, making a total attendance of 45.

Three expectant mothers attended the Centre and received advice, with 7 re-visits, making a total attendance of 10.

The children attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast	...	...	116	Glaxo	...	...	19
Ambrosia	...	...	8	Allenbury's	...	...	4
Breast and Artificial	...	...	22	Cows' Milk	...	...	23
Savory & Moore's	...	...	10				

Very little food has been given free, the mothers willingly undertaking to pay at a future time.

Few drugs have been prescribed at this Centre.

There is no accommodation for ante-natal work at this Centre. Three expectant mothers sought advice.

GENERAL.—All the Clinics show an increase in the number of children attending.

The interest taken by the mothers is also increasing; they attend regularly and carry out the advice given.

As in former years, a large number of babies after examination were pronounced healthy, well nourished and with no physical defects. We are glad to have these attend regularly, as it is important that such children should be safe-guarded in every way. A number of minor ailments have been treated. When the conditions have been more serious the mothers were invariably referred to their own doctor for treatment.

Other things being equal, breast-feeding is always advised, and it is very satisfactory to note that the percentage of breast-fed babies has considerably increased in the last few years.

Of all the infants attending the Clinics only six have died during the year, and of these six two had paid but four visits each to our or other Centres and one but two visits.

I have again to thank the Voluntary Helpers and Nurses for their able services.

II.—Dr. T. BAILLIE SMITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abertillery Urban District Council.

	No. on register at end of year.	INFANTS.		Total.	Average attendance per session.
		No. of attendances New cases.	Re-visits.		
ABERTILLERY CENTRE ...	782	532	3518	4050	86.2
SIX BELLS CENTRE ...	353	162	1798	1960	40.8
LLANHILLETH CENTRE ...	433	230	1838	2068	44.0

	EXPECTANT MOTHERS.		Total.	New cases.	NURSING MOTHERS.	
	New cases.	Re-visits.			Re-visits.	Total.
ABERTILLERY CENTRE ...	9	22	31	111	101	212
SIX BELLS CENTRE ...	12	15	27	51	88	139
LLANHILLETH CENTRE ...	16	14	30	70	141	211

From the above table will be noted the number of children, nursing and expectant mothers, who attended the various Clinics during the year, together with the total number of visits paid. It will be seen that the figures exceed those of previous years. A great deal more work could be done if extra Centres were established, as recommended at end of this report.

DETAILS OF AILMENTS FOUND IN CHILDREN.

		Abertillery.	Six Bells.	Llanhilleth.
Influenza	...	15	5	6
Whooping Cough	...	32	28	15
Chicken-pox	...	9	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	1
Measles	...	38	12	8
Pneumonia	...	19	14	21
Bronchial Catarrh and Bronchitis	...	248	117	146
Empyema	...	1	3	2
Croup, etc.	...	11	4	6
Stomatitis	...	8	6	3
Gastric Catarrh	...	53	30	42
Skin Diseases (various)	...	146	64	125
Eye Diseases (various)	...	27	7	10
Squint	...	6	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	100	45	66
Tubercular Peritonitis	...	1	2	5
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	2	1	3
Colic	...	50	16	18
Rickets	...	16	6	8
Umbilical Hernia	...	16	10	11
Inguinal Hernia	...	6	1	5
Constipation	...	33	13	22
Enlarged Glands	...	12	2	6
Debility	...	23	12	21
Icterus Neonatorum	...	6	5	2
Epilepsy	...	1	2	—
Congenital Heart Disease	...	1	—	1
Tonsils and Adenoids	...	12	12	6
Otorrhœa	...	29	7	27
Cleft Palate	...	2	—	1
Infantile Paralysis	...	—	1	2
Various Diseases	...	57	27	27

Influenza of a mild form was prevalent at one time of the year amongst infants.

A few cases of Glandular Fever were also noted.

Whooping Cough was prevalent, and a few cases were of a severe type. This disease plays havoc with the health of little children, and has always to be treated seriously. It may be weeks, if not months, especially in damp weather, before children throw off its devastating effects, whether it is complicated by other diseases or not. The great secret is not to risk young children where there is any chance of infection. Five deaths occurred from this disease in children under one year of age. Pneumonia is the usual fatal complication.

Pneumonia.—As will be seen from the list of ailments, quite a large number of cases of this disease were diagnosed at the various Clinics. Seven deaths occurred from this disease in children under one year of age. Skilled nursing assistance is absolutely essential for the successful treatment of this disease, and in my opinion should be provided, together with necessary special nourishment, and where housing conditions are not suitable or overcrowding exists, necessary hospital treatment should be available.

Much of the success of the treatment of this disease depends on the skill of the nurse and the conditions under which the child is treated, and *most important the proper dieting of the child.*

You will also note from the table the large number of cases of bronchial catarrh and bronchitis. Bronchial catarrh prepares the soil for the reception of the microbe which gives rise to pneumonia.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.—Three deaths under one year of age were notified as due to this disease. While the number of cases were more numerous than in the previous year, they were, as a rule, of a much milder nature.

Umbilical Hernia.—There are still too many cases of this condition met with. I have commented on this condition in previous reports.

Rickets.—This disease has increased of late years in this valley. 30 cases were met with this year, as compared with 23 in the previous year. This was to be expected. Some of the cases were of a very acute nature. When one considers the hardships suffered by the people in this valley for the period under review, it is surprising that many more cases were not met with.

The prevention of this disease presents no insuperable problem. The most important point is to see that the expectant mother is properly fed and clad and her health guarded in every way. A rich supply of breast milk and plenty of fresh air and sunlight and good housing conditions are the other essentials.

Deformities.—Two cases of hare-lip and cleft palate were operated on and also one case of club-foot. A severe case of infantile paralysis, affecting both lower limbs, was also referred to the Orthopædic Specialist.

All cases of deformities are reported to the County Medical Officer.

Two of the above cases were dealt with at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, by Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S.

A case of congenital dislocation of both hips is at present in hospital.

This work is of the utmost importance as, generally speaking, the earlier in life deformities are dealt with the greater is the prospect of a good cure.

Tuberculosis.—Fourteen cases of tuberculosis (all forms) were diagnosed at the Clinic. Only one death was recorded as due to tuberculosis in children under one year of age.

“The Pre-Tubercular condition” is a group in which, for want of a better term, a great many children, whose health is below par, are placed. Under suitable treatment those children made great improvement. This group of children require very careful “following up,” and have to be kept under observation for quite a long period. Our theoretical knowledge of this condition is much ahead of our practice.

Measles.—This disease assumed epidemic proportions towards the end of the year, and I recommend that measles should be added to the list of notifiable diseases for a period of six months. Many cases of a mild nature were diagnosed at the Clinic. Only one death occurred in children under one year of age.

The earlier in life measles occurs the greater is the danger, hence no young children should be exposed to infection if possible to be avoided.

DETAILS OF AILMENTS FOUND IN MOTHERS.

	Abertillery.	Six Bells.	Llanhilleth.
Anæmia and Debility	53	29	40
Gastric Catarrh, etc.	11	2	16
Skin Diseases	4	8	8
Eye Diseases	3	1	5
Influenza	2	1	4
Mastitis	4	3	5
Bronchial Catarrh, etc.	11	2	11
Rheumatism	10	4	10
Nephritis	4	1	2
Goitre	3	1	1
Heart Disease	3	1	—
Cystitis	—	1	4
Hæmorrhoids	2	3	4
Ruptured Perinæum	—	2	1
Prolapse of Uterus	2	—	1
Amenorrhœa	6	1	8
Menorrhagia	1	1	7
Tuberculosis (various forms)	4	1	1
Ovaritis	4	1	1
Various	15	8	12

The above table shows the ailments found in mothers. You will note the large proportion which fall under the heading of anæmia and debility. While the children of the district have survived the “struggle for existence” under the present economic position very well, it is the health of the mothers (expectant and nursing) which has suffered most. Many mothers had a prolonged period of indifferent health after child-birth. The sustaining of the breast feeding was quite impossible in many cases owing to indifferent health.

DETAILS OF METHODS OF FEEDING INFANTS.

	Abertillery.	Six Bells.	Llanhilleth.
Breast-fed	356	148	145
Partly Breast and Dried Milk	208	36	39
Dried Milk (various forms)	109	35	50
Cows' Milk	12	13	18
Patent Foods	12	10	6
Condensed Milk	24	23	20
Various	21	3	10

Mothers are encouraged to breast-feed their babies if at all possible as, in spite of all the milk substitutes, there is nothing like the mother's milk for building up a baby. When breast milk is poor the mother is instructed in the most suitable method of improving its quality, and, if this fails, to partly breast-feed at least, the breast-feed being supplemented by milk or one of its substitutes.

Fresh milk or dried milk is supplied to nursing mothers and babies on application where income of household is within certain limits.

The economic conditions in the valley during the year under review has been at a very low ebb owing to the depression in the coal trade, and it surprises me how the nursing mothers have weathered the crisis as well as they have.

Ante-natal Work at the Centres.—No proper facilities exist for this work at the local Centres.

An Ante-natal Centre has been established at Crumlin (Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.). There is plenty of scope for the work if suitable facilities were available.

The extent to which Drugs are prescribed.—The necessary remedies are prescribed where necessary after examination by the Medical Officer. The drug list is a strictly limited one.

Dental Treatment for Mothers.—Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches, L.D.S., R.C.S., paid visits to the Clinics and examined the mothers who desired dental treatment. Those mothers were treated at Newbridge or Blaina Dental Clinics.

The mothers resident in Abertillery area whose husbands pay to the Abertillery and District Hospital, can also have dental treatment from Mr. Hazel, L.D.S., who is the dentist on the staff of this hospital.

So far there is no scheme of dental treatment for children under five years of age in operation under the County Council. It is surprising the great amount of dental decay met with at this early age.

Nurse Hankins has now been transferred to other work after five years' excellent service in the area, and her place has been taken by Nurse Ware. Nurse Richards continues her duties as usual.

The number of necessitous mothers receiving free milk at the Centre during the year was small.

RECOMMENDATIONS.—The establishment of other Child Welfare Centres to meet the needs of Blaenau Gwent and Cwmtillery areas.

The establishment of a local Ante-natal Centre.

The extending of the scheme of dental treatment to meet the needs of children under five years of age.

The provision of a Sun-light Treatment Centre.

Suitable and adequate arrangements to be made for cases of difficult and complicated labour.

12.—Dr. J. REYNOLDS, Medical Officer of Health, Blaenavon Urban District Council.

BLAENAVON CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 448. 283 new babies were brought to the Centre during the year and 1,091 re-visits paid, making a total of 1,384 attendances. The average attendance was 28.8 per session.

Of nursing mothers, 158 new cases attended the Centre and 134 re-visits were paid, making a total of 292 attendances.

Fourteen expectant mothers attended during the year and received advice.

The babies attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast-fed	...	235	Cows' Milk	...	9
Allenbury's	...	10	Glaxo	...	53
Ambrosia	...	68	Nestle's	...	25
Partly Breast-fed	...	23	Other Food	...	5

Drugs are prescribed when necessary.

There is no Ante-natal work at this Centre.

13.—Dr. T. L. DRAPES, Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow Urban District.

CHEPSTOW CENTRE.—The work at the Centre has continued to progress during the past year, and in spite of a diminished number of births, the attendances have increased. At the end of the year there were 224 infants on the register. 103 new cases attended during the year. There were 2,181 re-visits, making a total of 2,284 attendances. The average number of attendances at each session was 47.6.

A large proportion of the infants are healthy and require very little medical attention, apart from directions as to feeding. The chief ailments requiring treatment are those connected with the digestive and respiratory systems. Mothers are being gradually educated to feed their infants at longer and more regular intervals. As a result, it is now exceptional to find an infant giving trouble at night, which was formerly considered to be a more or less normal feature during the first six months.

Breast-feeding is encouraged in all cases, and it is exceptional to find a mother who does not wish to suckle her child if it is possible to do so. When the natural method fails, I usually fall back on one of the proprietary preparations of dried milk, such as Glaxo or Ambrosia. In some cases citrated cow's milk is used, and rarely some of the other proprietary infants' foods. My experience of dried milk preparations as substitutes for fresh milk is most satisfactory, and when combined with fresh fruit juice produces excellent results. I feel that the prejudice which was at one time common against such foods is ungrounded.

Free food is supplied in certain cases when it is found that the financial circumstances of the parents warrants such a course. In a certain number of cases food is supplied in conjunction with the Board of Guardians.

As regards the use of drugs, those chiefly in request are for the treatment of bronchitis, from which complaint the majority of mothers seem to think their infants are suffering at one time or another. Such preparations as Virol, Virolax and Malt and Cod Liver Oil are supplied at cost price, except in really necessitous cases, when they are supplied free.

Owing to the accommodation, there are no facilities for the examination of expectant mothers, and consequently ante-natal work is not carried out to any great extent. Such cases, apart from general directions, are recommended to consult their own medical adviser.

I must again express appreciation of the invaluable help afforded by Sisters Webb and Dennis of the County Council Staff, and of that of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Evill, and the other Voluntary Helpers, all of whom render the work very smooth running.

14.—Dr. F. M. FONSECA, Medical Officer of Health, Ebbw Vale Urban District Council.

EBBW VALE CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at 31st December, 1925, was 413. 275 new cases attended during the year, and 1,841 re-visits were paid, making a total of 2,116 attendances. The average attendance at each session was 44.1.

136 nursing mothers attended the Centre and 150 re-visits were paid, making a total of 286 attendances.

One expectant mother attended.

The infants attending the Centre were fed as follows :—

Breast-fed	...	...	271	Cow and Gate	...	6
Cows' Milk	...	...	16	Neave's Food	...	2
Glaxo	...	...	21	Benger's Food	...	1
Ambrosia	...	...	9	Other Foods, over twelve		
Allenbury's	...	...	6	months—weaned, varied		
Nestle's	...	...	37	diet	...	42
Breast and Bottle	...	...	31			

The attendances of infants have increased considerably during the year.

Food is only given free to mothers at the public expense after strict enquiry of the actual necessities of the cases.

The drugs at the disposal of the Centre are used as far as practicable. In cases which require closer observation and further treatment than the weekly meetings permit, parents are advised to consult their medical attendant.

There is practically no ante-natal work, and there is no suitable provision made for the examination of obstetric or gynæcological cases.

15.—Dr. W. H. WILLIAMS, Medical Officer of Health, Monmouth Urban District.

MONMOUTH CENTRE.—The Centre is open weekly on market days and is made use of by mothers from Monmouth town and the surrounding districts. This year I have noticed that mothers have brought their children for advice from distances up to eight and ten miles.

The attendances are increasing, and during the year under review, 1,461 visits were registered. This figure does not include a number of school emergency cases which were attended to at the Centre.

The average attendance per session was a fraction under 30.

The infantile mortality rate for the combined districts served by the Centre was 52·8 per 1,000 net births.

The Local Committee and Voluntary Helpers continue to show a keen interest in the work of the Centre, and ably back up the efficient services of Nurse Dennis, the local health visitor.

The Committee make personal investigations into the applications for free food, and only allow claims when there is real necessity.

A scrutiny of the notes of the various cases that attended during the year shows that 41 infants required no treatment and made satisfactory progress.

On their first visit to the Centre 65 per cent. of the infants were found to be breast-fed only. Ten per cent. were partly breast-fed and partly bottle-fed, and the remainder were fed on either Glaxo, Cow's Milk, Nestle's, Cow and Gate or Allenbury's.

I am confident that the work of the Centre is all for the good of the infants and mothers. The mother who has a child, for example, that is not thriving is helped, not only by the actual medical and nursing advice which she gets at the Centre, but she is also encouraged and helped by the friendly interest taken in her troubles by the other mothers. The listless non-caring mother is here a rarity.

A few expectant mothers asked for advice and five received treatment.

Two mothers were found to have positive Wassermann re-actions and received treatment from their own doctor when he was informed of the fact.

Three mothers were treated for anæmia and one for a mammary abscess.

16.—Dr. R. V. de A. REDWOOD, Medical Officer of Health, Rhymney
Urban District Council.

RHYMNEY CENTRE.—The average attendance of infants attending the Centre for the year showed an increase from 21·2 to 26·0 compared with the previous year.

The children attending the Centre were fed as follows :—

Breast-fed	...	...	58	Allenbury's Food	...	2
Breast and Glaxo	...	...	9	Diploma	...	3
Breast and Nestle's	...	...	2	Cow and Gate	...	2
Glaxo	...	...	45	Cows' Milk	...	10
Nestle's	...	...	2			

The following serious ailments of infants were dealt with through the Centre :—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Attended hospital daily and completely recovered.

Congenital Cataract both eyes.—Admitted Newport Hospital twice. Both cataracts too hard to needle and bad prognosis given.

Hare-lip and Cleft Palate.—Was to be admitted to Orthopædic Hospital; was very debilitated and died.

Phimosis (7 cases).—All these were circumcised at the Cottage Hospital.

Free Food.—As stated in 1924, owing to closure of collieries, there is a higher percentage of unemployment as compared with neighbouring districts—in November of 1925, over 900 unemployed—as a consequence more free infant food has been given in 1925 according to the specified scale.

Owing to this unemployment, the Welfare Committee tried to make some arrangement whereby necessitous mothers could avail themselves of the free meals offered by the County Council; they were unable to prevail upon anyone to cater.

The Committee feel that the only possible arrangement would be at the School Cookery Centre—which is the Welfare Centre—with the help of the County Council Cookery Staff.

There is an increase in the attendance of expectant mothers. It is to be hoped many more will attend in future. The Rhymney Hospital is available for any difficult labour case.

The number of infants on the register is satisfactory.

Comparative statistics (uncorrected) with regard to the infantile death rate :—

1925.		Births.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths at all ages.	Infantile rate.
1st Quarter	...	82	9	41	109·7
2nd do.	...	87	6	37	68·9
3rd do.	...	82	5	30	66·9
4th do.	...	54	6	27	111·1
Average death rate under one year					87·6
Average death rate—Monmouthshire					83·6
Average birth rate ...					24·4
Average birth rate—Monmouthshire					21·6
Average general death rate ...					10·6
Average general death rate—Monmouthshire					10·6

The lady secretary, the lady helpers and the Infant Welfare Committee take an enthusiastic interest in the Clinic, as also do the two nurses.

17.—Dr. E. T. H. DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Tredegar Urban District Council.

TREDEGAR CENTRE.—The Centre is now thoroughly well established, and its usefulness is on the increase.

Very few cases receive free food because they do not comply with the County Council schedule.

Drugs are frequently prescribed at the Clinic. Tredegar is fortunate in that the majority of the prescriptions can be dispensed at the Surgeries of the Medical Aid Society.

The abnormally high incidence of umbilical hernia is a matter which calls for some attention.

There is very little ante-natal work done at the Clinic. This is partly due to the premises being unsuitable for that purpose, and also to the local Maternity Nurse not referring cases to the Clinic.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Nurse Walters and Nurse Snow for the excellent way in which they have carried out their duties, and also to thank the voluntary helpers for their valuable and willing attendance at the Clinic.

18.—Dr. E. M. GRIFFITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abercarn.

ABERCARN CENTRE.—1925 was a successful year at this Centre.

While the average attendance of infants (75·4 per cent.) is gratifying, the number of nursing mothers and expectant mothers attending has been small. This is of course explained by the fact that all the cases come from my own practice and can be seen privately—from their point of view much to be preferred.

It is gratifying to find that the encouragement given to mothers to feed their babies naturally is bearing fruit:—

Breast-fed	...	...	...	222
Breast and Glaxo	...	...	...	6
Breast and Ambrosia	...	...	...	6
Breast and Nestle's	...	...	...	7
				<hr/>
				241
				<hr/>

The number and articles used in regard to the artificially-fed were as follows:—

Cows' Milk	...	...	...	11
Glaxo	...	...	...	16
Allenbury's	...	...	...	5
Ambrosia	...	...	...	18
Nestle's and Virol	...	...	...	11
Cow and Gate	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
				63
				<hr/>

There is no doubt that the introduction of dried preparations of milk in these Centres has saved countless lives, as since they have become popular the number of deaths from epidemic diarrhoea has dwindled year by year. Whereas one used to see hundreds of cases every summer, one now rarely meets a bad case.

I have to again draw the attention of the County Health Authorities to the excellent and conscientious work of our lady health visitor, Nurse Lord. She has been unflagging in her efforts during the year; also to the steady, unostentatious efforts of the lady helpers at this Clinic.

J.—SALE OF INFANT FOODS, &c., AT THE CENTRES.

The facilities for the purchase at the Infant Welfare Centres of infant foods, &c., continue to be of great advantage to the mothers attending the Centres.

The wages earned by many of the men employed in the works and collieries of the County are very low, and the service for the provision of infant foods at a little over cost price meets a real necessity.

The following foods, &c., were purchased for sale during the year:—

Glaxo	...	...	37,222 lbs.
Savory & Moore's	...	...	72 tins
Lactagol	...	...	312 tins
Virol	...	...	3,836 lbs.
Virolax	...	...	432 jars
Ambrosia	...	...	18,863 lbs.
Robinson's Groats	...	...	864 lbs.
Malt Extracts	...	...	1,310 jars
Umbilical Pads	...	...	66
Roboleine	...	...	3,564 lbs.

The total cost of the articles was £5,736 1s. 6d.

A small sum is added to the cost price of the artificial foods sold at the Centres, and this in some measure sets off the loss incurred on the articles given gratis. At a few of the Centres there are voluntary funds, out of which foods are given free to mothers who do not come within the regulations governing the County scheme.

The Health Visitors are instructed to take care that only those mothers who regularly attend with their babies at the Centres, and who cannot pay the prevailing high prices, are served with the foods.

In cases where the income to a home is below the scale fixed by the County Council, infant foods can be obtained either free of cost or at half cost.

The total value of the goods given away during the year was £1,766 14s. 0d., which included the sum of £718 6s. 9d. paid for fresh milk.

The County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have formulated a scheme for the supply of dinners for necessitous nursing and expectant mothers, but there was no call for its operation during the year.

K.—INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table gives particulars of the training, &c., of the midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st December in each year, from 1911 to 1925 :—

Year	Number Literate	Number Illiterate	Total No. on Roll	No. holding C.M.B. Certificate	No. holding other Certificates	No. untrained but registered	No. over 60 years of age
1925	241	7	248	208	—	40	35
1924	242	11	253	203	—	50	38
1923	231	14	245	190	—	55	42
1922	224	16	242	178	—	64	49
1921	214	18	232	168	—	68	38
1920	211	22	233	160	—	73	48
1919	212	25	237	159	—	78	53
1918	184	31	215	123	—	92	49
1917	203	37	240	131	1	108	58
1916	214	37	251	135	4	112	58
1915	208	42	250	117	4	129	73
1914	207	53	260	100	6	154	111
1913	194	59	253	89	6	158	87
1912	191	62	253	87	5	161	71
1911	176	66	242	68	5	168	67

Again a decrease in the number of untrained midwives practising in the County is to be recorded. The number of trained women has increased by five.

The proportion of trained women to untrained is 208 to 40, whereas fourteen years ago the balance was on the other side, there being 168 untrained and 68 trained women on the Roll. There are still 7 illiterate women practising, a reduction of four since last year.

The total number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1925 was 24, two through old age or ill-health, nineteen through removal from County, two on account of death, and one by the Central Midwives Board for a severe breach of the rules.

The Inspectress of Midwives paid 1,446 visits to midwives, and made 1,035 examinations. In the other cases the midwives were not inspected for the following reasons :—

Not at home	...	...	270
Ill	...	...	14
Not commenced to take cases		...	20
Not working at the time	...	...	26
Patients visited	...	...	71
Away nursing private cases		...	10

In 55 instances unsatisfactory conditions were found, viz. :—

Cannot take pulse and temperature	...	18
Cannot chart pulse and temperature	...	26
Cannot take pulse ...	...	2
Register of cases not kept up to date	...	1
Very untidy ...	...	1
Failed to notify a rise of temperature	...	1
Hands and nails not clean	...	1
Uncut and dirty nails	...	2
Untidy ...	...	2
Bag of appliances not satisfactory...	...	1
Book of Rules. Register of cases not correctly kept	...	1
Scissors dirty ...	...	1

Two letters of warning were sent to the midwives concerned.

Ten midwives were interviewed by the County Medical Officer in respect of alleged contravention of the Rules of the Central Midwives Board, and severe warnings were given when necessary.

There are upon the County Roll four midwives who cannot take pulse and temperature, five who can take, but cannot chart pulse and temperature, and one who cannot take pulse.

Midwifery Scholarships are provided by the Education Committee as in previous years. (See Section L.)

1,702 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 130 cases of stillbirths, were received from midwives during the year.

Also four notifications of deaths of mothers, 14 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 68 notifications of artificial feeding, 10 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and 7 notifications of having laid out a dead body.

The reasons for sending for medical aid were as follows :—

High temperature	...	28
Prolonged and difficult labour	...	493
Obstructed labour	...	62
Premature birth	...	31
Premature labour	...	22
Retained placenta	...	83
Prolapse of cord	...	13
Prolapse of uterus	...	1
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum	...	42
Ditto post-partum	...	30
Hæmorrhage (not defined)	...	36
Ruptured perineum	...	157
Contracted pelvis	...	15

Abnormal presentation—Breech	...	23
Face	...	12
Hand	...	2
Transverse	...	7
Vertex	...	2
Foot	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	22
Abortion	...	70
Threatened abortion	...	19
Stillbirth	...	23
Unsatisfactory condition of mother	...	111
Ditto ditto child	...	73
Deformity of child	...	14
Eye affections	...	163
Uterine inertia	...	32
Doctor engaged	...	17
Puerperal fever	...	1
Born before arrival	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	87

L.—PROVISION OF MIDWIVES FOR THE COUNTY.

The Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918, are administered by the County Public Health Committee, acting as the Local Supervising Authority, for which the County Medical Officer acts as Executive Officer. The district nursing is provided under the scheme of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, of which Lady Mather Jackson is the Honorary Secretary.

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association undertakes the training of pupil midwives for the Monmouthshire Education Committee. They were requested to make this provision at the instance of the County Council after the passing of the Midwives Act in 1902.

Good work continues to be accomplished by the Association, both in the training of pupil midwives and in the provision of nurses for district nursing. At the present time there are 27 constituent associations affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, and 36 nurses are employed by them. The aims of the Association have been fully stated in previous reports.

The Nurses' Home at Tredegar, which is recognised by the Central Midwives Board as a training centre for midwifery pupils, passed out six pupils during the year, all of whom were successful in obtaining the Central Midwives Board Certificate.

Since the establishment of the Training Centre, thirteen years ago, 68 pupils have received midwifery training, 65 have passed the C.M.B. examination, two have failed, and one refused to sit the examination after being trained.

Fifteen pupils have also received six months' general training at the Home in addition to the midwifery training.

Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, is the approved lecturer to the pupil midwives. The Home is now sufficiently large to accommodate the scholarship pupils as well as the staff. The period of training of midwives has recently been extended by the Central Midwives Board from six months to twelve months.

A grant of £350 is made each year by the County Education Committee to provide six midwifery scholarships, value £38 11s. 4d. each, and in addition six months' district training in general nursing for two pupils. If it should happen that the six scholarships are not taken up in the year, the amount of the grant is proportionately reduced.

Provision of Midwives in Rural Areas.—A grant to the maximum of £750 per annum is made to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to subsidise the provision of trained midwives in the rural areas of the County, in accordance with the scheme of the County Medical Officer, which was approved by the Public Health Committee and the Local Government Board in October, 1917. During the year 1925, midwives were subsidised in the following areas :—

Llantilio Crossenny.	Llangattock-vibon-avel.	Chepstow.
Llantilio Pertholey.	Raglan.	Penhow.
Goytre & Llanover.	Itton.	Rogerstone.
Tintern & St. Arvans.	Llanfoist.	Llandogo & Trelleck.
Usk.	Caldicot.	
Christchurch.	Pontypool Road.	

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association have not hitherto called for the maximum grant. The amount disbursed averages about £600 per annum.

M.—COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme under which the County organisation works has been set out in detail in previous reports. It is regretted that in some districts of the County it has not been found possible to form Maternity and Child Welfare Committees through the inability to find Honorary Secretaries who will undertake the organisation.

N.—TRAINING OF THE ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The mothers of the future are not neglected, for the elder scholars of girls' departments are taught the rudiments of infant care and hygiene at the Domestic Arts Centres of the Elementary Schools of the County.

O.—PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

CASES AT HOSPITALS, &c.

1. *Physically Defective Children*.—The joint scheme of the County Council and Education Committee, whereby 12 beds are reserved at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, came into operation during the year.

Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., the Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon, visits the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, once a month for the purpose of examining new cases and re-examining children who have received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. He commenced duties on the 1st September, 1925, and the following cases were seen by him (in this section of the work) during the year:—

Equino Varus	...	3	Plano Valgus	...	1
Birth Palsy	...	2	Hare lip and cleft palate	...	2
Severe Rickets	...	4	Cleft palate	...	1
Rickets with genu valgum...		1	Hare lip	...	1
Congenital talipes	...	1			

His recommendations were as follows:—

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street	...	...	...	4
For admission to the Country Branch of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Brockley Hill, Stanmore	...	...	...	8
To wear a splint	...	...	...	1
Boots to be altered	...	...	...	1
To be kept under observation at local Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	...	...	...	2

Six children were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital or its country branch at Stanmore, Middlesex. The defects from which they suffered were as follows:—

Equino Varus	...	1	Plano Valgus	...	1
Hare lip and cleft palate	...	3	Severe Rickets	...	1

Upon discharge of the children from the Orthopædic Hospital, the County Medical Officer takes charge of their after-care. He sees them periodically at the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, and supervises their massage and electrical treatment and appropriate after-care when necessary. A close watch is kept upon the surgical boots and instruments which have been supplied to the children, to see that they are properly and constantly worn and continue to be suitable.

Two infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 12 attendances.

Two pairs of surgical boots and two surgical appliances for physically defective children, were supplied by the County Council.

Infants suffering from surgical tuberculosis are treated at the Hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial Association, and arrangements for their proper after-care are being instituted by the County Medical Officer.

2. *Hostel for Unmarried Mothers.*—The Maternity Home and Hostel at Nantyderry continued its good work. There were 8 girls and 6 babies in residence on the 1st April, 1925. During the year which ended on the 31st March, 1926, 14 girls and one baby were admitted and there were 11 births in the Hostel. Thirteen girls and 11 babies were discharged in that period and two babies died. Ten girls remained in residence on the 31st March, 1926. Of the 24 girls in the Home during the year, 22 were from the County of Monmouth. Four of the girls discharged went to situations, 8 were taken charge of by relatives, and one was admitted to a Religious Home. Nine of the babies who left the Home were taken to relatives and one was adopted.

Apart from its influence upon the mother during the period of confinement and the training she receives to fit her for work when she leaves, the Hostel ensures that the baby born out of wedlock is given an equal chance in life with infants more fortunately placed.

3. *Medical Attendance at Confinements.*—Under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, the County Council are responsible for the payment of fees of medical practitioners called by midwives to assist in cases of emergency, under certain specified conditions.

Fees were paid in 111 cases during the year, involving a payment of £194 17s. 0d. The Council have power to recover the whole or part of such fees from the parents.

The total amount collected in this manner by the Finance Department was £13 4s. 6d.

4. *Difficult Labour Cases.*—Facilities for consultation with Dr. G. I. Strachan, Senior Assistant Gynæcologist of the National Medical School and the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, are provided for these cases and hospital treatment given when necessary.

Four cases were examined, and three of them subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of Cardiff Royal Infirmary during the year 1925.

5. *Dental Treatment.*—Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches, L.D.S., R.C.S., Senior School Dentist under the Education Committee, devotes one half day per week to dental treatment of mothers and also children under five years of age. Each Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the County is visited by Mr. Riches and advice given to expectant and nursing mothers who have carious teeth. Treatment of those who desire it is afterwards given at the nearest County School Clinic. The treatment figures for the year are as follows :—

No. of appointments made	...	...	318
No. of do. kept	...	...	168
No. given gas	...	...	168
No. of temporary teeth extracted	...	...	141
No. of permanent teeth do.	...	...	755
No. of children treated	...	...	39
No. of mothers do.	...	...	129

P.—CONCLUSIONS.

The infant mortality rate for the year has risen slightly, but it is felt that this is merely a temporary set-back through the ravages of epidemic disease. The value of Maternity and Child Welfare work has to be judged not only by the number of lives saved, but also by an equally important factor, viz.: the improvement of the health of the child and mother which follows, as a result of skilled medical attention which many of them now receive during the most vital years of their lives. It will undoubtedly be found, when the present generation grows up, that the cost of ill-health to the community, which to-day is so large through loss of work on account of sickness and disability, will be considerably lessened. Another factor, only slightly less in importance, is the gain to the school child, who, by virtue of a healthier infancy, and correspondingly a healthier school life, will be better able to benefit educationally.

The popularity of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres maintains its progress. This is emphasised by the number of mothers who, after attending with their first babies, return with their second and subsequent infants, and by the fact that there are constant demands from new districts for the opening of Centres.

It is to be regretted that the call for economy in the County finances must defer the extension of the service in this direction.

The chief element in the success of the Centre appears to be the personality of the Medical Officer in charge. A good deal of patience is needed to listen to the talk of the mothers and to separate essential facts from the irrelevant matters. The doctor who will conscientiously undertake this duty soon gains the confidence of the mothers, and their recommendation of the Centre to their friends.

The attendances of infants and of nursing and expectant mothers at the Centres showed an increase upon the previous year.

The maternal mortality rate of 3·9 per 1,000 live births is lower this year than it has been for several years, but it still seems capable of reduction. Suggestions in this direction are:—(i.) Ante-natal provision; (ii.) Institutional treatment of complicated midwifery cases, and for women whose homes are unfit for a confinement to take place therein; (iii.) The promotion of a high standard of practice by midwives.

There is an increased tendency on the part of expectant mothers to seek advice at the Centres. We must persevere in our efforts to educate them to appreciate the importance to themselves and to their children of medical supervision from the early months of pregnancy, and to accept the facilities which are available at the Centres for those mothers who are unable to engage a doctor during that period. Many mothers who now complain that they have never been well since their confinement, would be in much better health had they received expert advice during the early months of pregnancy. Examination at that time would reveal whether a normal or abnormal delivery is expected, and in the latter event, preparations could be made in due time for dealing with the abnormal condition with the smallest risk to the mother and child.

As already indicated, we can report progress in ante-natal work. The second suggestion is closely related. It is of little use advising the mothers to make arrangements for complicated labour, or informing them that their homes are unsuitable for the confinement, if the necessary hospital accommodation cannot be offered.

This second point is a very serious one, for our investigations of cases of Puerperal Septicæmia have shown that many homes are entirely unfit for confinements.

Houses are overcrowded, and it is impossible to place the lying-in room in a condition satisfactory enough for such an event. Rooms are often full of articles which harbour dirt, which cannot be removed, for there is no other storage available for them. The midwife or doctor is not called in until the very last minute, and there is then no time for preventive work. Other disturbing factors in these homes are the shortage of bed-clothing, food and other comforts, which are so necessary for the well-being of the lying-in woman.

Through the generosity of Sir John W. Beynon, Bart., C.B.E., D.L., the mothers of the County will soon have the advantages of an up-to-date Maternity Hospital.

Sir John has presented to the County Council the modern country mansion known as The Coldra, situated very near to the town of Newport. The house is in splendid condition, and with very little alteration can provide accommodation for at least 20 cases.

The County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have gratefully accepted the gift, and have decided that the Hospital shall be opened on October 1st, 1926, but at the time of writing, the country is in the throes of a general strike. How far that will affect the arrangements for opening the hospital, remains to be seen. The hospital will be known as the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital, in memory of the donor's mother, and it is not too much to say that it will prove to be one of the most beneficent gifts the Monmouthshire County Council has yet received or is likely to receive. Nothing counts so much in the race of life as good health.

The third suggestion is the promotion of a better standard of midwifery service. A big advance in this direction may be expected to follow the new rules of the Central Midwives Board, by which the period of training will, after the 1st May, 1926, be extended to 12 months.

Ante-natal work is closely bound to midwifery, but very few midwives approach the subject in a methodical manner. Bookings are made in a very casual way. Very few midwives have any idea of the ante-natal examinations which should be made, and rarely do they advise a visit to the family medical practitioner or the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The education of the mother is being assisted by the display at the County Centres of posters, illustrated and letter-pressed, dealing with matters of interest in the welfare of the infant and mother.

The various Societies concerned with Maternity and Child Welfare have, for the past few years, been advocating all-knitted outfits for babies from birth, which, experience shows, are more suitable than the old-fashioned long clothes.

Difficulty is experienced by mothers in obtaining these patterns in this County, and arrangements have been made for a supply through the Centres.

The new County scheme of orthopædic treatment is one which will prove of inestimable benefit to the children who are so unfortunate as to be suffering from orthopædic defects and crippling. There are very few such conditions, no matter how severe, that cannot be benefited by proper treatment.

The earlier in life these defects are treated, the better chance of satisfactory remediation. The only drawback is the smallness of the accommodation. The 12 beds reserved at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital are fully occupied, and there are on the waiting list 39 children between the ages of 1 and 14 years who have been examined and recommended as suitable for treatment. There are also 60 children awaiting examination by the Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon.

A striking feature of the reports of the Surgeon is the number of deformities due to rickets, in many cases caused by faulty feeding and too little fresh air and sunshine. Advice is given to many mothers on this condition at the Welfare Centres, but it is regretted that it has been found in all the cases of crippling, that the children have been taken to the Centres when it was too late to prevent the deformities developing.

Finally, the County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee can rest assured that its efforts to combat the waste of child life, due to preventable causes, continue to reap a good reward, and that much of the prejudice, ignorance and apathy amongst all classes is being abated. The physical health of the child is at the root of all schemes for mental hygiene and advancement, and if that is borne in mind, we shall not fail in our duty to the coming generation.

Once again, we thank the voluntary helpers and the members of the district Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the valuable help rendered at the various Centres. In many instances, the assistance was given at the sacrifice of much time and money too.

We also desire to express our appreciation of the unfailing support which has always been afforded by the Chairman and Members of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.